



CYCLIST'S CONTINENT CONQUEST

Report by Rob Cox

CANCER survivor Sam Greatrex has completed a marathon cycle ride across an entire continent and surpassed his fundraising goal of £240,000.

Sam, from Halesowen, successfully made his way from the east to the west coast of South America, covering a total distance of more than 2,493 miles (or 4,000km), which is a greater distance than this year's Tour de France. He completed the epic journey, without support staff, in just under a month.

It was the latest leg of his charity challenge called Lap the World, in which he set out to raise £240,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was while travelling through Peru that the 30-year-old discovered that donations had topped a quarter of a million pounds.

The charity is a deeply personal cause for the intrepid fundraiser who, at the age of 10, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. He underwent successful chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital and was helped through his treatment and recovery by Macmillan nurse Moira Bradwell.

Sam said that she had been 'an inspiration' to him and he had continued to see her regularly for check-ups for the next 17 years.

He completed the first leg of his formidable challenge last year by cycling 1,700 miles through Southern France, Spain and to the western edge of Europe at Lagos in Portugal's Algarve region.

The aim has been to avoid any motorised forms of transport, so he then set about reaching the Americas — by rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

His five-strong team completed the 3,800 nautical-mile journey in 51 days in a 28ft boat, beating the previous world record by 20 days. The team rowed 12 hours a day.

Amazon

The latest solo leg across South America meant taking on the Amazon rainforest, the Andes mountains and apparently endless miles of South American dirt roads, sometimes through dangerous regions.

After overcoming several hundred kilometres of dirt road after setting off in Guyana, he crossed the border into Brazil where he discovered he did not have the required entry stamp. He had to reach the city of Manaus, 100 miles away, in three days to pay a fine or risk being deported.

Sam eventually completed the epic journey in Peru on Wednesday having covered more than 4,000km.

Town is feeling rosy during visit by judges



Halesowen in Bloom team members Hilary Bills, chairman Eve O'Connor and Tracey Price bring out the tea and cake for supporters

Blooming hopeful

HALESOWEN was blooming marvellous as organisers thanked the people of the town for their efforts with a tea party.

After winning a silver gilt last year, Halesowen in Bloom organisers pulled everything out of the grow bag to make sure this year's judging day was a success.

Eve O'Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, said: "It was an absolutely brilliant day. The sun was shining and everyone did all they could to make sure it went smoothly. We held a tea party at St John the Baptist Church to thank everyone for their efforts — from litter picking to weeding."

"The judges arrived and there was a 15 minute presentation before they started on the two-hour

route around the town. We explained about the displays and the hard work and effort that had gone on through the year."

The campaign has seen gardens, buildings and shop fronts transformed by colourful floral displays. Halesowen Flower Club also prepared displays to celebrate the Battle of Britain and the Women's Institute anniversaries.

Mrs O'Connor explained that they now had to wait for results on September 10. She added: "In my eyes Halesowen has already won, so many community groups have been brought together and the town looks beautiful. The judges' comments were extremely positive."

SCHOOLS

Pupils' meal cost goes up 10p a day

FAMILIES will have to fork out extra for school meals in Dudley from September. The price charged for a meal in all primary and special schools across the borough will increase by 10p — from £2 to £2.10 a day. This equates to £10.50 per week.

Prices for individually priced food in primary and secondary schools will rise by five per cent from the start of the new school year. The increase will bring in an extra £150,000 per annum for the council, which bosses say will cover food, energy and staff costs.

COMMUNITY

Sons of Rest lease takeover is signed

CAMPAIGNERS have signed the lease to take on a former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen.

Dudley Council has agreed to transfer the venue to members of Hasbury Community Association.

A campaign was launched two years ago to save the building, between Alexandra Road and Wall Well, amid fears it could be demolished. Members of the community group, including Councillor Donella Russell who spearheaded the campaign, are working to re-open it.

HOLIDAYS

Chief is criticised over parent fine call

OFSTED'S chief inspector has been told to 'come out of the 19th century' after calling for parents to face heavier fines for taking children out of school in term time.

As the summer holiday began, Sir Michael Wilshaw called for tougher penalties. But Councillor David Sparks, chairman of the Local Government Association and former leader of Dudley Council, said the power should be handed to head teachers for 'common sense' to prevail.

Councillor Sparks said: "Wilshaw should come out of the 19th century, when everybody was governed by the hours of the mill, the mine and the foundry."

INSIDE

HIPPODROME MEMORIES



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Sam on a beach in Peru

Family outing tragedy at beauty spot

A MAN who drowned after trying to recover a ball from a pool at a beauty spot in Pensnett has been named as father-of-four Deon Mullings.

Mr Mullings, aged 35, failed to re-surface when he went into the water at Fens Pools Nature Reserve in Pensnett on Sunday but got into difficulties after a gust of wind blew the ball further out.

Mr Mullings, who was originally from Jamaica and lived in Holly Hall, Dudley, was brought out of the 16ft-deep Middle Pool by emergency services some 45 minutes after vanishing under the water.

He had been at the waterside with his partner and children and had been enjoying playing ball games with his daughters before tragedy struck. His partner Louise went into the water to try to help Mr Mullings but was unable to find him.

He was rushed to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham but despite staff trying for 30 minutes they were unable to save his life.

A fundraising page has been launched by the family who want to return Mr Mullings' body to Jamaica.

Dudley Council said an investigation would take place.

Arrest after car careers into workmen

TWO workmen were hit by a car after it careered into them as they worked on an electrical communications box in Coseley on Monday.

One of the workmen, in his late 20s, suffered serious head injuries and was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in a critical condition. The other, believed to be in his early 20s, suffered serious facial and arm injuries and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving after the crash in John Holden Avenue and was released on bail. Police say two people were in the car at the time and they both fled the scene.

The crash happened near the junction with Robert Wynd in Woodcross. People rushed to help the injured workmen after the grey Citroen Picasso hit them.

Police put a cordon around the area as they carried out their investigations. Debris from the damaged communications box was strewn across the road.

Anyone with information should call 101.

The youth has been released on police bail until September 15.



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Alliance aiming to benefit patients

FEWER patients will need to go outside the Black Country for treatment following a link-up of health trusts, bosses have said.

Staff could be shared across hospitals to cut the costs of temporary workers, make it easier to recruit and share best practices to the benefit of patients.

Bosses at the health trusts in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, which form the new Black Country Alliance, insist patients will not be forced to travel further for specialist treatment.

Instead they want to develop their own specialist services, meaning many people will not have to go to Birmingham for cancer care and neurology.

The partnership between The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was announced last week. Between them they cater for more than a million people and have over 10,000 staff.

Paula Clark, Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are

going to learn from each organisation, what are the very best standards and how to do raise those standards.

"This is a really exciting time for all three trusts as we aim to be able to keep and return specialist services to the Black Country for our patients, who may otherwise have to go to a larger Trust further afield to receive treatment. It offers opportunities to our staff through collaborative working, we will encourage innovative ways to provide the best possible care, developing centres of excellence in the Black Country.

"We will not be looking at all of our services. There will still be an accident and emergency department across all trusts, but for some of the more specialist services we will be able to ensure a future in the Black Country or even reinstate them."

Walsall chief executive Richard Kirby said: "The core of this is to do as much as we can locally. We are more likely to move staff around than patients around."

Bosses are encouraged by NHS England to look at new models of care.

£17m being spent on empty council homes

MORE than £17 million is being spent maintaining hundreds of empty council homes in Dudley borough.

Dudley Council used the money to ensure the properties are safe and secure. There are currently 633 empty council houses in the borough.

Meanwhile, 2,370 people remain on the authority's waiting list.

Council officials said they have an increasing backlog of properties which it has found difficult to let. They also say there have been problems letting high rise flats and three bedroom maisonettes.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Void properties are a major issue for any landlord and we certainly do all we can to ensure that empty properties are filled as quickly as possible."

"However, as the biggest provider of homes in the borough there is a balance to strike between getting void properties back into use and maintaining and improving tenanted homes. The work we do on council properties is part of our wider commitment as a local authority to provide good quality homes across the borough."

Necessary maintenance includes electricity tests, rewiring, plastering and clearing gardens.

Decline

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council's Conservative opposition, said the root cause of the £17.2m bill had been long-term tenants who have allowed the condition of their homes to decline.

He said: "What we would like to see is the council introduce a five year tenancy agreement. That doesn't mean at the end of the agreement an old lady is kicked out of her home but, after five years, if someone has point blank refused access for the council to come in and keep the property up-to-date then we can review their tenancy. It would also make it far easier to deal with anti-social behaviour."

In June last year the council announced a £15m project to refurbish council homes. It includes work on empty homes to enable them to be re-let. Since it began the number of people on the waiting list has fallen from 4,191 to 2,370 but the number of empty homes has risen from around 570 to 633 over the same period.

Fun is no tall order at summer festival



Mad Dominic AKA Dominic Rooney entertains the children at Brickhouse and Cradley Heath Summer Festival

THE sun shone on visitors to this year's Brickhouse and Cradley Heath Summer Festival.

From fairground rides to stilt walkers, there was plenty to entertain families at the event held on the Moor Lane Green Space in Rowley Regis.

Hundreds of people descended on the park on Sunday. There were lots of stalls to browse, as well as a car boot sale.

One of the biggest attractions was the live music with an open

mic event taking place. Visitors were able to enjoy a picnic while watching the singers and musicians.

Seventeen acts from across Sandwell took to the stage throughout the afternoon.

Senior youth worker Will Walker, who organised the music even said: "It was fantastic. The quality of the performances was outstanding. People were sat on the grass in front of the stage, relaxing and enjoying the music."

"We were very lucky with the weather, which made a difference. It was a great success, one of the best festivals we've had. Credit must go to the organisers who have put in a lot of work."

Also at the event was the Sandwell Youth Bus, and displays and games were also provided by Sandwell Leisure Trust.

Activities included a climbing wall and entertainer 'Mad Dominic' — stilt walker Dominic Rooney — was also on hand.

Care homes facing extra costs due to wage rises

CARE home owners in the West Midlands will struggle to cope with the introduction of a higher minimum wage, they claim.

Debbie Le Quesne, chief executive of West Midlands Care Association (WMCA), which represents private sector care providers, warned the industry was at 'breaking point'.

She said although employers welcomed better pay rates, it will add £23 per week to the care cost of every Midlands person in residential care.

She said that Chancellor George Osborne's Budget had done no favours to the care industry in the Midlands.

"Most domiciliary providers are on set local authority contracts which have seen next to nothing in increases over the past five years," she explained.

Savings

"They are still trying to work out how to find funds to pay travel time and now a second increase in outgoings looms."

"Calculations do not include external price rises we expect to see from our suppliers, who will also need to pass on their increased production costs," she added.

"There simply isn't anywhere for extra savings to be made. Years of austerity have taken their toll and the creative thinking is through."

"The Local Government Association, which represents more than 400 authorities in England and Wales, said the cost of implementing the policy should be taken into account when council funding levels are set in future."

Tributes are paid to motorcyclist

A TEENAGE motorcyclist who died in a crash in Smethwick was due to celebrate the religious festival of Eid with his family later in the day.

Sandwell College student Suhail Yousaf, aged 18, from Oldbury, died after his bike hit a lamppost at the junction of Alma Street and Tollhouse Way on Saturday at around 1.40pm.

Tributes and floral tributes were left at the scene. Friend Assam Ali, 19, who had been with the victim just 10 minutes before the crash, said: "He was a biking enthusiast. Whenever he got the chance to ride his bike he was on it, that was his passion. I'm upset he has gone but he died doing what he loved."

Mr Ali said Suhail had been due to join his friends and family in Eid celebrations later on Saturday.

Police to target problem parkers

PROBLEM parkers on a busy dual carriageway in Quarry Bank will be targeted in a police crackdown.

Officers will be out on patrol in Thorns Road and nearby streets in the coming days after complaints about parking near to Thorns Primary School.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Town's new bus interchange opens

A £1.9 million bus and rail interchange will open in Cradley Heath this Sunday. It will include a new waiting area with seating, toilets, CCTV and improved access.

There will be four connected bus stands, each with an information 'totem' to show when buses are due. The interchange, in Forge Lane next to the town's train station, has been built by Centro. Councillor Roger Horton said: "It provides better connectivity for people using the Merry Hill shopping centre and travelling further afield."

Big bang caused by aerosol cans

FOUR aerosol cans exploded after being left in sunlight, blowing out a kitchen window and taking a door off its hinges.

Oldbury Fire Station were called to the incident in Clent Road at around 2pm last Friday.

The aerosols had exploded on the kitchen work surface after the homeowner had left them in direct sunlight whilst out shopping.

A dog was in the property at the time but unhurt. The explosion caused a considerable amount of damage to the window, door and cooker.

Under-used, so court may close

SANDWELL Magistrates' Court looks set to close due to being massively underused.

THE Ministry of Justice confirmed it was one 14 courts in the Midlands which could be axed to save money.

In 2014/15 the court house, on the Oldbury Ringway, cost £407,000 to run but was only used to 47 per cent of its total capacity. It is proposed that its workload would be transferred to Walsall Magistrates' Court. More than 21 jobs would be affected.

Setting out market stalls at street festival

DOZENS of market stall holders will be showcasing their wares as part of a Black Country Festival event this weekend.

The Black Country Fair is coming to Halesowen town centre this Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

Around 40 stallholders selling goods including jewellery, candles, hot pork sandwiches will be in town. There will also be a photo booth and fun mascots alongside a DJ and other entertainment.

Homes bid is lodged

PLANS for a canalside housing development in Oldbury have been lodged. Grayston Nixon has submitted the proposals for three townhouses and 11 apartments off Titford Road, by the Titford Canal. Sandwell Council will decide on the application within the next three months.

It's the final home time for teachers



Mary Barker and Margaret Doherty retire

TWO teachers who worked at a school for a combined 80 years retired on the same day.

Mary Barker and Margaret Doherty had both been at Rowley Hall Primary School since the 1970s.

Mrs Barker is the longer serving of the pair, having been at the school for 43 years.

During their time at the Windsor Road, Rowley Regis school, they taught more than 3,000 pupils.

Mrs Barker, 64, said: "It is very emotional to be leaving but the years have just gone by so quick. I've been

extremely lucky to work at such a nice school, we've kind of had our own little village here.

"I've had taught children of children I've taught in the past too. It's been a real family atmosphere.

"I have seen five different head-teachers and lots of changes to the national curriculum but the children have always been lovely.

"I think my name may be down for a few school trips still. So it will be nice to return to see the children then."

Mrs Barker came to Rowley Hall

straight from teacher training in 1972. She was promoted to the position of special needs co-ordinator.

Margaret Doherty, 62, worked at the school for 37 years.

She took early retirement a few years ago but continued to work there for two days a week until now taking full retirement.

Mrs Doherty said: "I'll now have freedom to enjoy my spare time. The children have been wonderful and it's been a lovely school to work for. To see them grow up and do well has been rewarding."

Three men are charged with child sex offences

THREE men from the Black Country have been charged with a string of child sex offences as part of a major police investigation.

Alan Priest, aged 63, of Holly Road, Rowley Regis; Ian Prestleton, 53, of High Haden Road, Cradley Heath; and 27-year-old Darren Clegg, of Whitburn Avenue, Great Barr, are among 10 people from the Midlands and London charged by specialist protection officers. The charges include rape, attempted rape, prostitution and pornography relating to two teenage boys.

Priest, who works as a driver, is charged with two counts of rape, two counts of engaging in penetrative sexual activity with a child, and one each of engaging in non-penetrative sexual activity with a child and arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography.

Unemployed Prestleton is charged with rape, arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography, engaging in non-penetrative sexual activity with a child, and causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. Clegg, also unemployed, is charged with engaging in penetrative sexual activity with a child.

All three men are due to appear in court on August 18.

Four men from Birmingham were also charged as part of the investigation by West Midlands Police.

Trafficking

Tahir Hussain, 33, of St Joseph's Road, Ward End, is charged with four counts of rape, two counts of engaging in penetrative sexual activity with a boy aged 13 to 15, six counts of arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography, and one each of sexual assault, trafficking people within the UK for sexual exploitation and engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child aged 13 to 15.

Stephen Kelly, 39, of Elm Road, Bournville, is charged with attempted rape, engaging in non-penetrative sexual activity with a child, engaging in sexual activity in presence of a child and three counts of facilitating child prostitution or pornography. Caretaker Peter Joynea, 58, of Canberra Way, Highgate, is charged with facilitating child prostitution or pornography, making indecent photographs of children and possessing indecent images of children. Peter Lowe, 67, of Salisbury Close in Moseley, is charged with rape, engaging in non-penetrative sexual activity with a child, in presence of a child and two counts of facilitating child prostitution or pornography.

Black Country breed celebrates



Cruz the Staffordshire Bull Terrier has got it licked with owner Tina Hubble at the anniversary show

THE club who got one of the world's most famous dog breeds officially recognised has celebrated its 80th anniversary.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club hosted an open show, where nearly 100 dog owners brought their beloved pets, to mark the occasion at Cradley Labour Club.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was first recognised as a pedigree breed back in 1935 thanks to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club,

which still promotes the breed across the world.

Patrick Enfield, vice-chairman of the club, said: "The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is popular all over the world, which isn't bad considering it came from a little place in the Black Country.

Great

"I think its popularity stems from the fact that it is a great all

around dog. You get the feeling that you have a big dog but in the body of a small dog. They know when it is time to play and when it is time to rest and are just as happy sitting on your lap as they are chasing a ball around a field.

"They do get bad press but that is down to poorly bred dogs — we only focus on dogs with a great temperament and background, those are the most important things."

Hundreds of children waiting to be adopted

MORE than 300 children across the West Midlands are waiting to be adopted, according to new figures — 40 are waiting in Dudley alone.

There are 80 children in Wolverhampton, 20 in Sandwell, 40 in Dudley, 40 in Walsall, plus 95 in Staffordshire and 40 in Worcestershire.

There are potential new families available but many people are waiting for more than six months to get approved as adopters after they apply.

The Government has launched a website featuring maps of areas with the biggest demand for adoptive parents. Chiefs say there are often more potential adopters available than there are children waiting but council boundaries can hold up the process.

In Dudley, 10 families were approved for adoption from April to December 2014, but none of these were given the green light within six months. Of the 15 approved in Walsall in the same period, 10 were within six months, compared to five of the 20 in Sandwell. Thirty out of the 60 families in Staffordshire were approved in six months.

It comes after Wolverhampton revealed an average of 673 days between a child entering care and moving in with a family. The target is 548.

Figures show 690 children are waiting across the whole of the West Midlands, many having spent months in care. In 2014-15, 460 children in the West Midlands were found a permanent home.

Visit www.first4adoption.org.uk/ or call 0300 2220022.

United by grief over terror victims

HUNDREDS of mourners paid a final farewell to three Black Country men murdered in the Tunisia massacre.

Family, friends and the community united to remember devoted Saddlers fans Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Pat Evans.

Mourners lined the street in hushed silence as the funeral cortege made its way to Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in West Bromwich.

Joel's brother Owen, aged 16, who survived the attack in Sousse, supported his mother Suzanne and grandmother Maureen as they entered the church together.

As well as those paying their respects inside the church, some 200 people gathered outside to listen to Friday's service.

Bats the way to do it on nature trek

A BAT walk will take place at Warley Woods next month.

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In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath in the Black Country, His son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors.

Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2007 and is now working closely with his father in the day to day running of the business and conducting of the funerals in the long established family business still located in Lower High Street. In late 2008 Trevor and Ross took over the running of R. Hadley Funeral Services in Halesowen. Carrying on the established business to the same standard and code of practice that of T. E. W. Hickton & T Hadley & Co. Trevor's other son Greg joined the business in 2010.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



BROTHERS, let us build the New Jerusalem on brownfield sites. Let us streamline the planning laws to allow all the houses we need to be constructed on the disused land of old factories, railway yards or quarries. The Government has spelled out its vision. What could possibly go wrong? I'll tell you what could go wrong. I was once shown an old Coal Board map of the known pit shafts, some more than 200 years old, in the Black Country. There were hundreds. In theory, the shafts were all sealed. In reality, some were covered with a few wooden planks and a load of soil. The moment you start digging into brownfield sites, you may hit all sorts of nasties. Pit shafts are merely one worry. It is not unknown for 21st century developers to discover 19th century cyanide lagoons. Occasionally, a vehicle plummets into an unknown chamber covered by turf. If Whitehall tears up the planning laws tomorrow, do not expect developers to rush for brownfield sites. They much prefer the predictable security of a nice green field.



IN a mean-spirited article for the Guardian, Jonathan Jones slagged off the official photographs of Princes Charlotte's christening, ridiculing "their faces lit up by hysterical joy, their hair wispy in the sun, their teeth shining like diamond walls of privilege, and their eyes betraying no signs of thought whatsoever." In other words, the perfect christening snaps. It may come as news to the Guardian but most parents and grandparents want pictures showing their brood at its best, even if it does not reflect the absolute truth. This is why so many homes have framed photographs of Gavin on graduation day, proudly attired in gown and mortar board and clutching £27,000 worth of 2:2 BA in Media Studies. The truth is that Gavin spent most of his time at Uni face-down in an alcoholic haze and eventually landed a washing-up job at the abattoir. But who wants photos of all that? Family snaps are propaganda, not gospel.

AS the Greek tragedy drags on a reader writes: "Have you noticed, when spoken quickly, how 'euros' sounds just like 'IOUs'?"

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Dozens of homes on way at steelworks site

A FORMER steelworks site in Brierley Hill could be regenerated for housing as plans to build dozens of homes have been revealed.

The Cookley Works site in Brockmoor, where metal working took place for more than 150 years, has been dormant since its closure in 2006.

Factories have since been demolished, leaving the vast site empty after decades when it formed a major part of the town's industrial heritage. Developer Harris Lamb has now signalled its intention to build 70 homes, transforming the area off Leys Road.

The company said the scheme would bring 'many benefits' to Brierley Hill with around a third of the new properties being designated as affordable housing.

The development would feature two-storey properties as well as bungalows and maisonettes, ranging from one to three bedrooms.

Community

A design and access statement submitted to Dudley Council said: "The development will enable the creation of a small, new community within Brierley Hill. The affordable housing will offer the opportunity for prospective tenants on the council's waiting list to be housed in new, up-to-date, modern dwellings."

"The affordable housing will bring the opportunity for people to take their first steps on the housing ladder through shared ownership."

by Richard Guttridge

Nearly 40 jobs were lost when Cookley Works was axed by steel giant Corus. The plant, which had a long and proud history in the town, had been in a period of steady decline with its workforce having plummeted from the 1,500 employed in the 1960s.

Dudley councillor Ken Finch welcomed the plans to bring the historic site back into use, but admitted he would prefer more of the new homes to be affordable.

He said: "These sites are obsolete and doing nothing, and as much as I would like to see more industry, they have got to be used."

"Brownfield sites need to be used, people don't want building on their little area of green belt. Everybody is aware of the need for housing and I have got nothing against these developments as long as there is affordable housing. There is only going to be a percentage and I still think there should be more."

Back to the 1940s at museum



Dorothy Taylor and Karen Hunt enjoy a picnic at the museum

VISITORS were transported back to wartime Britain as they relived the 1940s at the Black Country Living Museum.

Classic cars and motorbikes were on display at the popular attraction as part of the nostalgic look back to the sights and sounds of the era. The museum's 1940s events have become a popular highlight in the calendar at the Tipton Road site.

On Saturday and Sunday, many were dressed in forces uniform, including both British and American troops, while other visitors and costumed staff wore 1940s fashions.

Sirens sounded out across the site showing people how it would have felt to be warned of a potential air raid by the Luftwaffe.

Retired electrician Lyn Webb was among those who took part in the event and he took along his own classic 1946 car.

The 62-year-old from Bilston attended with partner Karen Hunt in a 1940s RAF uniform and proudly showed his Alvis TA14 car.

"We love coming to these events," he said. "This one is so well done. The sites around the museum look like the 1940s."

Staff are sacked for too many sick days

SIXTEEN staff have been sacked by Dudley Council for taking too many sick days during the past 12 months.

Figures reveal sickness absence at the authority has risen to an average of two working weeks a year.

Council bosses said it was a 'last resort' to sack serial non-attendees.

A total of 90,677.43 days were lost by workers taking sick days at the authority in 2014/15 - the equivalent of 248 years. This works out as an average of 10.26 days per full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff.

Bosses insisted they took action to reduce staff sickness levels and 'a small number' of workers had lost their jobs because of repeated absence.

Last year in the UK, the average worker called in sick four times.

The Dudley figures include both council and school staff. The council employs around 8,836 FTE workers. In the 2013/14 the sickness rate worked out as an average of 9.52 days.

Councillor Judy Foster, corporate and customer services boss, said: "It is the mark of a good employer that we provide support for staff when they need it through sickness or other pressures. However, in a small number of cases, and as a last resort, we have had to end contracts where all other options have been explored and exhausted."

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New-look school comes up roses in double celebration

120,000 are expected at culture fest

UP TO 120,000 people are expected to descend on Smethwick for this year's Sandwell & Birmingham Mela.

The fifth such event, it takes place on Saturday and Sunday, from noon each day. More than 100 artists and groups are set to perform in Victoria Park for the best of South Asian culture.

Taking the stage will be Punjabi pop favourite Roshan Prince. Stalls, fairground rides and food stands will be dotted around.

Director of Lebara Sandwell & Birmingham Mela Danny Singh said: "The Mela is months of hard work and dedication by the team. This year we have put in the extra effort and are bringing something really special to festival-goers."

"The Mela is a real community event and we have lined up a range of activities for people of all ages."

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "The Mela is always a real highlight of the calendar, bringing together community events and international stars and open to everyone with a feast of entertainment, food and activities."

"It draws people from all over the country and this fifth annual Mela promises to be a fantastic spectacle in the heart of Smethwick."

Opening date for new Harvey Nichols store

BIRMINGHAM'S new Harvey Nichols store will open to the public on July 31.

The 45,000 sq ft store in the newly transformed Mailbox, will be Harvey Nichols' first design concept store and will offer more than 200 of the world's most desirable brands.

It will have its own bar, which will be open until 12.30am on Fridays and Saturdays. There will also be beauty rooms.

A SCHOOL has cause for a double celebration after the completion of a multi-million pound revamp and a 'good' Ofsted report. The £9 million project at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy saw a complete overhaul of the site.

New teaching facilities were built and a 1950s block demolished. Every classroom at the site has had a facelift and new technology has been added. Work started two years ago.

On Friday, the academy was visited by the Mayor of Sandwell, Barbara Price, who planted a commemorative rose bush.

It also came as the academy received a 'good' rating in all four Ofsted categories - leadership and management, behaviour and safety, quality of teaching and achievement of pupils. This marked a massive turnaround at the school, which became an academy in 2009 and only emerged from special measures in 2013.

Professor Toby Salt, chief executive officer of the Ormiston Academies Trust, officially opened the redevelopment. James Murray, director of the Ormiston Trust, attended.

Culmination

More than 1,000 guests enjoyed performances from the academy's students and partner primary schools, and toured the new facilities.

Principal Marie McMahon said: "This is the culmination of over two years' incredibly hard work. I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved together in the last few years, and incredibly excited about what the future holds."

"The investment in our environment will be pivotal on our journey to becoming an outstanding academy. It also makes the academy the jewel in the crown for our local community,

Report by Simon Stone

who will be able to benefit from the fantastic new facilities."

Professor Salt said: "The launch has come at a very positive time with the academy's recent Ofsted report highlighting the great work done by the academy's staff."

"They finally have the building they deserve as the school moves even further forward. The new building will make sure that students have great facilities to enhance their learning."

"It celebrates both the academic and the extra-curricular activities that contribute to a well-rounded education, catering for every student whatever their aims and interests."

The revamp included a new entrance and a sixth form and learning resource centre, updated PE facilities, improved science and design and technology provision, new dining facilities and a purpose built block with 20 new classrooms.

In its previous Ofsted inspection in 2013, the school, on Lower City Road, Tividale, Oldbury, was told it needed to improve. But in the latest report, which was revealed in May, it was praised and received a 'good' rating for its leadership and management, behaviour and safety of pupils, quality of teaching and achievement of pupils.



From left, head boy Adam Foster, Mayor of Sandwell Barbara Price, principal Marie McMahon, and head girl Alisha Allen



The new-look academy building in Tividale



The frontage which has just undergone a makeover

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



The not so beautiful aspect of our game

IT hasn't been a great week for the Beautiful Game. We've had Raheem Sterling jumping up and down like a spoiled child because of Liverpool's reluctance to let him join moneybags Manchester City.

Then, Villa captain Fabian Delph decided to take a slice of Sheikh Mansoor's money, days after issuing a heartfelt pledge of loyalty and undying love for Tim Sherwood's side.

In an ideal world, Roy Hodgson would say that neither of these mercenaries would ever pull on the England shirt again, but we all know that is not going to happen. We now have radio pundits who trot out the old "no loyalty in football" cliché as if it something we should commend.

Then we come to West Bromwich Albion's new boy James McLean, who decided to voice his disapproval for all things English by turning his back on the St George's flag and refusing to sing the national anthem. Very mature, wouldn't you agree?

Apparently, young James is from a staunch Republican background in Northern Ireland. Previously, he refused to wear a Remembrance poppy in protest at Republicans killed by British soldiers during the Troubles.

Clearly, Mr McClean does not have much time for England, which of course, is his right.

However, since he finds this country so objectionable, perhaps he might consider why he is living and working here.

If he really wanted to demonstrate his Republican loyalties, he ought to shun the bright lights and riches of the Premier League, and try his luck at Carrick Rangers or Dungannon United. Now that would be a genuine display of principle.

■■■■

SHOW me a motorist who has never broken a speed limit by 1mph, and I will show you a liar. Which is why we should all be very concerned about the plans for a new "zero tolerance" approach to speeding offences in Scotland.

Police Scotland plans to issue warning letters to anybody who is clocked exceeding the speed limit by just a single mile per hour, with fines and penalty points for anybody who is caught doing the same a second time.

At the moment it is part of a six-month "pilot study", with the threat that "if successful" it will be introduced in other parts of the UK, or "rolled out", to use the fashionable parlance.

We'll take that as read then.

In other words, within a year or so anyone found driving at 31mph in a 30 could very easily be fined. Get caught a few times doing 31mph, and you will probably be banned.

And as everybody does 31mph at some time or other, it will simply be a matter of luck who gets nabbed.



Paul Whyley pictured with his daughters, Heather and Lauren



Paul with grandchildren Isabella, Rufus, Valentina and William



Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking in The Theory of Everything

Oscar winner helped me spot my disease

Watching a film about Stephen Hawking, Paul Whyley realised he had the same symptoms, **ROB COX** reports

RELAXING in his cinema seat alongside his wife, Paul Whyley was enjoying Oscar nominated Stephen Hawking biopic *The Theory of Everything*, when a slow realisation came upon him.

For months the 62-year-old grandfather-of-four, had been having difficulty controlling his fingers, had problems moving his arm and experienced a number of trips and falls.

Doctors had been unable to come up with a diagnosis, and he had passed it off as encroaching old age, but with mounting horror he realised that he was suffering the same symptoms as the character on screen.

He says: "The first problem I had as with my shoulder. I got numb fingers and sometimes I would drop my keys and there, on screen I saw Eddie Redmayne with similar symptoms. He was unable to control his fingers.

"In another scene they run through a list of all the symptoms associated with Motor Neurone Disease and I thought 'bloody hell, I have got every single one of them'.

"I had the dropped foot, although it was a bit dramatic in the film. He went keeling over with no control of anything but it doesn't get you like that, it is little things like tripping at first. I know because I have experienced it.

"There was the scene with the blackboard as well. He couldn't lift his arm and I used to get pain when drilling at work."

Sitting in the dark at the Odeon cinema at Merry Hill shopping centre he pushed the realisation to the back of his mind – unable even to share his fears with his wife.

But he sought advice and was told by a doctor that he needed a nerve conduction test to establish whether he had the disease.

After an agonising six-week wait to see a neurologist, it was confirmed. There is no cure



'It has been completely life-changing' — Paul Whyley, who has MND, with his wife Jayne

for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and in Paul's case his condition has rapidly declined.

"It has been completely life-changing," admits Paul. "I am wheelchair-bound. My arms have virtually stopped working. My legs have gone.

"I am like a newborn baby. I can't do anything for myself."

"It has also put us under a lot of stress, on my wife particularly, probably more than me.

Paul watched the film with his wife Jayne just four months ago, in March this year, but with hindsight believes the disease – that progressively damages parts of the nervous system leading to muscle weakness – was having an impact as early as 2012.

He had noticed a sore shoulder while carrying out his work as a blind fitter, which only got worse over time.

He says: "You just think it is old age. When

you trip you think that is why, but it is because your feet drag. The muscle in your foot starts to get weak.

"I was working in Hereford and went to cough and I couldn't. I thought 'that is odd'. I could breathe OK but my diaphragm had started to go."

Paul, from Hagley, had originally become convinced his sore shoulder was linked to cancerous mole in the same place.

Jayne said he became 'transfixed' on the belief that everything was connected with the mole, which he then had removed.

But problems flared up again in February. While out on a job Paul felt his legs suddenly give way and he returned home still confused about his ill-health.

It was soon after when Paul, Jayne and friends went to watch *The Theory of Everything*. Pauls admits it was not his first

choice but Jayne was fond of lead actor Eddie Redmayne, who won an Oscar for his portrayal of the young Stephen Hawking.

Since his diagnosis Paul's illness has taken a different trajectory to Hawking's, with his condition rapidly declining.

The father-of-two had been a keen pilot, taking to the skies up to twice a week from Halfpenny Green Airport, near Wolverhampton.

But the debilitating disease has now made even getting out of the house difficult.

Jayne says: "I am a constant carer. Paul has to be taken to the toilet, showered and washed. I can't just think 'oh, I'll pop to the shops'.

"When I am at the shops I am constantly on the clock thinking 'I need to get back, I need to get back'. It has changed everything."

Ventilator

Paul has a ventilator to assist his breathing through the night and takes tablets to slow the progression of the disease.

And his family and friends, including daughters Heather, 36 and Lauren, 34, and grandchildren, Isabella, eight, Rufus, three, Valentina, four, and William, six, are supporting him. They have set up a crowdfunding page to raise money for a stairlift to be installed at his home.

A summer fete was also held at Stourbridge's Greenfield Primary School to raise money to help the family.

Since Paul's incredible story of self-diagnosis came to light, his family have joked at the similarities in appearance between himself, Eddie Redmayne and Stephen Hawking.

But can the world-famous physicist act as an inspiration to others with MND? Maybe for some, but Paul recognises that he is an exceptional case.

"Unfortunately not for me," says Paul. "I might be saying the wrong thing but he is unique.

"He has had the disease 50 years, defying all the odds, and is still alive now, with the disease still progressing.

"But he is an inspirational scientist and his fame helps raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease."

To donate to Paul's fund visit <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Paul-Whyley>

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We make it

Pitching tent in shopping centre raised awareness on struggle faced by refugees

ON Saturday, June 27, we did something I have never seen in Stourbridge before.

We pitched a tent of the sort refugee families who have lost their homes and everything they own in war and disasters would use for months, and maybe for years, as their only shelter – in the Ryemarmet in Stourbridge.

Lionesses fall short of '66 heroes

YES, they did finish third but personally speaking I feel there was too much hype regarding England's performance in the recent Women's World Cup Tournament in Canada.

We had reports of a 'stunning performance', one girl was compared to the greatest footballer in the world Lionel Messi. If a pass went astray there was always an excuse. If anybody dared to say anything that was not considered praiseworthy, they were branded sexist, chauvinistic or from the Victorian era.

In the name of equality the FA are throwing money into the woman's game. This England side in Canada never wanted for anything, their back up staff would not disgrace a Premiership side – yet what we got was nothing more than a typically hardworking English side. The Lionesses of today will never emulate the Lions of Wembley 1966.

A P CUFF
Stourbridge

It was great to see so many people step inside the tent, see all the equipment and imagine how life could be.

It was a first for us as the Rotary Club of Stourbridge as well, but we were glad of the chance to raise awareness by practical means of the charity, ShelterBox, we ourselves have supported over the years. One lady even told us how just such a tent and such generosity had saved the life of her daughter in a far off country.

We were also really glad to be able to raise some money for the charity, ShelterBox, itself. The permit for the collection had been granted by Dudley MBC. The total collected was £333.84.

We want to thank all those who showed such interest and gave to what might otherwise seem a far off charity and cause when there are so many pressing problems closer to home.

JULIA SAVAGE
Rotary Club of Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
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It's history and it can't be changed

I find it difficult to accept Patrick Vernon's views on historical slavery, particularly when his energy could be better used in addressing the modern version.

I must declare an interest or two. My great great great grandmother was a slave on the remote South Atlantic island of St Helena. DNA testing indicates that she may have been of Asian or Mediterranean origin. Her relationship with an Irish captain in the East India Company Regiment led eventually to me and my family.

Fast forward to my youth — I was educated via a scholarship at a West Country school which was founded on the proceeds of the slave trade. Some say that this largesse on the part of the slave trader was conscience money.

I retain links with the school via the Old Boy's Society and with many of my contemporaries.

I have no hang-ups about any of this. I'm certainly not unique. It's history, my history, and it can't be changed.

Please, Mr Vernon, direct your energies towards the present and future of the inhuman slave trade.

T RIDGE
Sedgley

Chains are a reflection of heritage

DON'T confuse political correctness with misjudgement over the Black Country flag. Whilst it is true that some chains made before the 20th Century would have been used by slave owners to enslave Africans, it wasn't their only use, nor is it the chains that do the oppressing. People oppress other people. Plantation owners, slave traders and imperial capitalists all got rich out of the barbarism of slavery.

Context is important for imagery. The image of chains being broken by human hands is often associated with humans liberating themselves from some form of oppression. It is not the chains that break by themselves but humans that achieve the liberation.

A chain image can be used to symbolize linking people together in unity. Context is everything. In the Black Country flag the chain is merely a symbol of industrial heritage of the region.

TONY BARNSLEY
Halesowen

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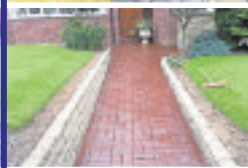
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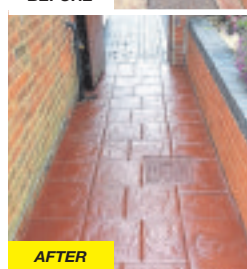
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Thornton in talk on Cadbury's

Kingswinford TWG

AT the June meeting, chairman Enid Fennell welcomed two visitors, Margaret Tew and Margaret Fennell, chairman and treasurer respectively of the committee of the West Midlands Federation.

Enid said Dot Pearsall was in hospital and wished her a speedy recovery. On a more cheerful note, Brenda Adkin was welcomed back to the fold after her recent ill health, and Alva Staves was presented with a lovely floral arrangement to mark a significant birthday.

It was announced that tickets for the national carol service to be held in Birmingham, were all sold and that there was a waiting list. However, there will be room at the Federation carol service, which will cost less and include a cup of tea and mince pie.

The Scrabble group will meet as usual, as will the ramblers. The next meeting of the luncheon club will be at The Court House in Kingswinford. The Wednesday Club will meet in September for fish, chips and cider and possibly even art and craft.

Speaker Alan Thornton talked about Cadbury's chocolate. The main thrust was concerned with how Quaker principles led to the Cadbury family developing Bournville village.

Sue Cotterell thanked Mr Thornton on the group's behalf. Sylvia Taylor, Sandra Grey and Margaret Fennell won raffle prizes.

On August 10, at the community centre, Fiona Lucas will talk about 'tea towels from around the world'.

Anniversary marked with afternoon tea



The WI members on their visit to Dunsley Hall for afternoon tea

THIS year is the centenary year of the WI, but it is also Trysull & Seisdon's 85th anniversary.

To celebrate this, Rita Brown organised afternoon tea at Dunsley Hall, Kinner. The ladies were soon tucking into dainty sandwiches and fancy cakes all served in beautiful surroundings.

Special guests were county chairman, Sheila Moulton and her predecessor Denise Moreton. Despite a few heavy showers while the ladies were eating, the sun came out later and they were able to go outside to walk round the gardens and pose for a group photograph on the terrace.

Speaker for the July meeting was Peter Taunton, the Town Crier for Stafford and Newport. He had brought along several

Trysull & Seisdon WI

bells and the regalia that he wears, blue and gold with a top hat for Newport, and red with a three cornered hat for Stafford. His wife Maureen goes with him as his Lady, and she makes all their costumes.

Peter still performs this ceremony as well as taking part in corporate events, carnivals, weddings and funerals. He and Maureen have travelled all over the world attending functions and entering contests.

On Thursday, September 10 at the village hall, Trysull, Patricia Boyd will be advising: 'Mind your language'. The competition will be a limerick.

Date given for annual show

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Panicking driver began an 80mph police chase

Grandad's abseil challenge



Halesowen's Peter Goode, aged 77, starts his descent from 100ft above the Holte End at Villa Park in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice

IT was a hair-raising experience for a Halesowen grandfather who abseiled 100ft down one of Villa Park's most famous stands.

Grandfather-of-two Peter Goode had a bird's eye view of the Holte End when he took part in the challenge for charity on Saturday.

But he stayed cool under pressure - having worked for many years as an engineer on the BT Tower, an iconic part of the Birmingham skyline.

"Heights aren't a problem for me. I really enjoyed it. Not many people see Villa Park like that," he said.

The 77-year-old from Woodbury Road, Halesowen, joined others helping to raise cash for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Volunteers were strapped into harnesses before abseiling their way down from the gantry on the roof.

Mr Goode decided to take part after hearing about children cared for by the hospice. His son Nigel's partner Susan Edwards is a fundraiser and administrator at the charity. Nigel, 50, also took part. "When you see what these children go through you want to do something to help," added Mr Goode.

A DRIVER panicked when he saw a police car behind him, leading to a high-speed chase through Black Country, a judge heard.

Police searching for a Ford Focus followed one being driven by Ibrar Mohammed for a short distance while checks were made. But before the inquiry could rule out the car, Mohammed had accelerated to 80mph in a 30mph zone, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 29-year-old motorist had seen the police car - with neither siren nor flashing lights deployed - in his rear view mirror and panicked when his passenger disclosed he was carrying some drugs.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, explained: "Police were looking for an unrelated Ford Focus and were travelling behind this car while some checks were made. These eliminated it from the police inquiry but by then the motorist was driving dangerously."

Humps

Mohammed careered over speed humps, hurtled through junctions, drove on the wrong side of the road forcing other traffic to take evasive action and went through sets of red lights.

The seven minute chase on March 2 started in Bloomfield Road, Tipton, and ended on Birmingham New Road near its junction with Tivdale Road when Mohammed tried to run away.

Miss Jabeen Akhtar, defending, said: "His driving was pretty appalling. When he realised the police car was behind him his passenger revealed he had some drugs. The defendant panicked and did not inquire about the quantity. This would have revealed it was a small amount consistent with personal use for which the passenger has already been fined."

Mohammed, of Walford Street, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving. He was given a six months jail sentence suspended for a year, banned from driving for 18 months and ordered to pay £1,500 costs with 150 hours unpaid work.



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Family fled as fire ripped through home



Karen Hickman, Mr Hickman's sister, surveys the damage at the living room of the home in Brockmoor

A FAMILY of five, their dog and two pet tortoises had to be rescued from a fire that tore through a Brierley Hill home. Selina Adams managed to escape the property in Brockmoor with her children after being woken by neighbours. Her pets were rescued by firefighters, although one of the tortoises died. Miss Adams and her four children, Billy-Joe, six months, Trinity, two, Harley-Jack, three, and Preston, four, were sleeping in a downstairs room when the fire took hold. Her partner Kieran Hickman was out taking the couple's other children, Leigha and Ellie, to school. Fifteen firefighters tackled the blaze and fire officers were investigating the cause.

2016 start for quarry work

DEVELOPERS behind a plan to transform a disused quarry into a residential area hope to begin work on the site next year.

FCC Environment is targeting early 2016 to start the major scheme, which would see the Edwin Richards Quarry at Rowley Regis filled in and 281 homes built on its southern edge. The firm has been given permission

by Sandwell Council to go ahead with the project but has said issues with underground gas need to be investigated before any work can begin.

FCC has also confirmed that household waste will not be used to fill in the quarry as had been planned. Soil and non-hazardous materials will instead go into the ground. The scheme could take up to 30 years to complete but it is hoped the homes could be completed during the next decade.

Rowley Regis councillor Chris Tranter said he supported plans to develop the quarry, as the area needed affordable homes, but raised concerns about the impact of lorries travelling to the site.

He added: "We did have our fears allayed somewhat at the latest public consultation but I have still got reservations. The amount of lorries coming to and from the site is going to have an effect."

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DOGS HOME ON THE MOVE

Birmingham Dogs Home was founded in 1892 on land made available by the late Sir Alfred Gooch Bart in New Canal Street, Birmingham. Sadly this building, which over a century later still had 'Birmingham Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' proudly displayed above its doors, was destroyed in a fire during 2014 - but from the foundations established at this humble building, the charity continues to exist and grow.

Almost 100 years after the charities founding - in 1887 - the Duchess of York officially opened the new Bartholomew Street home, which had been purpose-built to provide shelter and protection for over 150 abandoned dogs in comfortable kennel blocks with adjacent facilities, such as its own vets' clinic, puppy unit and isolation block.

The home is a charity which can only survive through the generosity and support of the general public and benefactors from the local community. Without this we would be unable to carry on the vital work of rescuing and rehoming abandoned dogs.

The tremendous help given over the years has allowed us to improve and extend our facilities and, therefore, our ability to care for these unfortunate former pets.

While the Birmingham site houses our head office, our second site - Sunnyside Kennels - in Coven, Wolverhampton, is a showpiece 21st century home built at the cost of £2m and opened in September 2002.

Sunnyside houses 100 strays in state-of-the-art accommodation complete with veterinary consulting room and isolation unit for dogs requiring special, one-to-one care and treatment.

In recent years the charity recognised that the facilities offered by our rehoming centre in Digbeth were falling behind the expected standard of a modern animal welfare establishment. With very little room to expand the existing home the Trustees decided to find a new location for the centre on the South side of Birmingham, a site that can enhance the service provided by the charity now and for years to come.

After looking at 65 potential sites the Trustees agreed to purchase a 12.45 acre site situated on Catherine de Barnes Lane, Solihull. The site is in the Green Belt, so a very detailed environmentally considerate design had to be put together if the charity had any hope of gaining the necessary

planning approval from Solihull Council. Such a scheme was compiled and on the 10th July 2013 planning approval was granted for the construction of a £5.5M Animal Welfare Centre.

On the 22nd September 2014 work began on site with the new home opening in July/Aug 2015. The Centre will comprise of 130 large kennels with under floor heating, veterinary suite, education / community centre and superb staff facilities. The 12.45 acre site gives plenty of room, for volunteers and supporters looking to find their new companion, to walk dogs in open countryside.

Birmingham Dogs Home recognises that none of this would be possible without the loyal long standing support of the people of Birmingham, Solihull and the West Midlands

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It's all go now for the new build and a new, exciting future for Birmingham Dogs' Home.

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Our new Dog Rescue and Welfare Centre is set in the beautiful countryside on Catherine de Barnes Lane in Solihull.

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Weeks of highway misery on way due to roadworks

ROADWORKS lasting almost eight weeks are expected to cause traffic chaos on main routes through Tipton.

Essential gas repairs started this week around High Street and Owen Street and could carry on until September.

Traders fear the works will impact business. One worried boss, Steve Hanington, who opened an independent toy shop just off Owen Street last August, said: "We're dreading it, it's hard enough as it is. Just when you think Tipton is getting back on its feet they decide to shut the roads."

Volunteers are taking action this summer

HUNDREDS of Black Country teenagers have been putting their names down for a summer volunteering programme.

More than 1,000 local teenagers have signed up to take part in the National Citizen Service (NCS), which is run throughout the summer.

NCS is a Government-funded initiative that supports community engagement and social integration among young people. It is aimed at 15 to 17-year-olds and gives participants the chance to develop skills and gain new experiences, while making new friends and contributing to their local area.

The programme has been running in the Black Country for five years, with fewer than 200 people taking part in its first year.

During their time on the programme participants take part in outdoor activities and learn how to live independently. For more information visit www.ncs.thechallenge.org

"This is right in the school holidays, the time when we want to attract kids, so it's the worst possible time for us."

Balfour Beatty is carrying out the work for National Grid Gas and traffic diversions will be put in place.

Mr Hanington warned these could cause 'pandemonium' as they send motorists through residential areas.

Other firms in the area share his concerns about the potential impact of the works on trade. Victoria Chippy boss Lucas Menicou, who has been at the shop for 19 years, said: "It's going to be very bad. If we don't have through trade here that kills us off. It's terrible."

Diversions

Phase one of the repairs will see the High Street closed between Sedgley Road West and the Canal Bridge to August 9. Diversions will be via Owen Street, Alexandra Road, Lower Church Lane, Horseley Heath, Dudley Port, Sedgley Road East, Park Lane West and vice versa. Alternatively via Sedgley Road West, Hurst Lane, Bloomfield Road, Upper Church Lane, Alexandra Road, Owen Street and vice versa. Phase two affects Owen Street and Albion Street. Three-way traffic lights will operate from 7am to 7pm with side road closures in Brick Kiln Street and Wood Street from August 10 to 23.

Wrestlers in show of strength for charity



Wrestlers Adam Kirby from Netherton (left) and David Minton from Brierley Hill will test their strength for charity IT will be a test of strength for a pair of professional wrestlers from the Black Country who have signed up to a strongest man contest.

Dave Minton, who goes by the stage name Dave Mastiff, and his pal Adam Kirby, aka Simply Sensational Saul Adams, have put themselves forward for the annual Sandwell's Strongest Man.

The pair have trained in the gym together for the best part of a decade and decided to create some competition between themselves, and raise cash for

Acorns Children's Hospice, by taking on the strongman event. Mr Minton, of Brierley Hill, and 29-year-old Mr Kirby, from Netherton, will face a series of 10 muscle-straining challenges as part of the contest, including the Atlas stones, farmer's walk, dead lift, shoulder press and tractor pull.

While the pair have both honed their physiques in the gym over years, Mr Minton admitted taking on some of the strongman events had been tougher than anticipated.

Mr Minton, aged 30, said: "Some of the events like the Atlas stones are so alien compared to techniques that you use as a regular gym member. It took us by surprise the first couple of weeks. We had to do extra research and ask people so we could learn new techniques."

Sandwell's Strongest Man takes place during the Sandwell Show on August 30 and 31.

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/sandwellsstrongestbeards or text SSBS99 plus an amount to 70070.

Fewer people with mental illness in cells

THE number of people with mental health problems being locked up in police cells has halved across the West Midlands, new figures have revealed.

Chiefs launched a crackdown to stop suspects being detained under the mental health act when they should be taken to other facilities.

Psychiatric nurses are based at West Midlands police stations and attend call-outs to help officers decide if a person needs more help.

The number of detentions of mentally ill people by police fell from 636 to 301 in 2014.

The triage scheme was set up after it emerged about a fifth of police resources in the West Midlands are taken up by incidents involving mental health.

Getting people assessed by nurses when they arrive at the station saves time and means they can be transferred quickly if needed, bosses say.

Chief Inspector Sean Russell said: "In the past we've not worked alongside agencies like the ambulance service and mental health providers and it's meant too many people ending up in police custody and essentially being criminalised for being unwell."

The team helped in 2,256 incidents, of which 1,756 included health assessments.

Physical health was also assessed at the station rather than at a hospital.

Expert antique talk at building society AGM

DUDLEY Building Society is urging its members to confirm their attendance for a talk by Will Farmer, from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow.

Farmer will give his talk at the Copthorne Hotel, followed by a free valuation of items brought along. The 20th Century decorative art expert joined the Roadshow in 2004.

The event will be part of the society's annual meeting today (Thursday) at 2pm. Call (01384) 231414.

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You batter believe it — chippie back in business

A FISH and chip shop has reopened more than 30 years after the previous owner closed its doors.

The Port Fish and Chips, in Dudley Port, has opened at the former premises of Guest Fish and Chips.

New owner Manny Dhariwal believes it was last open in 1984 when the previous owner shut up shop but continued to live at the property.

Mr Dhariwal's family ran the neighbouring Spar store for 20 years and kept an eye on the old chippy, asking the owners to let them know if they ever intended to sell.

"Sadly the old owner passed away three or four years ago," Mr Dhariwal said. "The relatives came to us and asked if we were interested in buying it, so we did and set about turning it back into a fish and chip shop."

"The council gave us their full

banking because they knew the site's history. In the Black Country area it is a mini-landmark. Everyone knows where the old Guest chip shop was – they all say it was a great family run place."

Mr Dhariwal, aged 30, set about restoring what he says is a 'traditional Black Country fish and chip shop'.

He has taken on four full-time staff and intends to employ three more in the near future at the shop, which reopened earlier this month.

Mr Dhariwal added: "So far the reaction we have had has exceeded expectations, it has been brilliant."

"My family have been in the community here for 20 years running the shop so we know a lot of the faces. When we told people we would be reopening the chip shop the response was overwhelming."



Chip shop owner Manny Dhariwal, of Dudley Port, with staff, from left, Becky Rowley and Maria Burbridge

One in six police officers want to quit

ONE in six police officers is planning to leave the service in the next two years, a survey indicates.

Almost 16 per cent of respondents in the poll of more than 30,000 officers admitted they intend to depart their roles. Seven per cent questioned plan to leave the service within the next two years, while 8.6 per cent are already looking for a new career.

The proportion was a slight increase on the same poll last year, when 14.6 per cent said they intend to leave.

The Police Federation of England and Wales, which conducted the research, seized on its findings as evidence of the poor state of morale across the police force.

Other findings from the poll include just under one in two intend to stay in the force until pension age; more than 95 per cent of those who are planning to leave cited 'how the police as a whole are treated' as having an effect on their decision, while a similar proportion said their morale was a factor.

Overall 70.2 per cent of officers said morale was low, compared to 59.1 per cent in 2014, although nearly six in 10 said they feel proud to be in the police.

Sport and music boost law firm's charity total

STAFF at law firm Higgs & Sons were pitch perfect in their support for charity as two very different events helped raise almost £6,000 for a good cause.

More than 350 professionals from businesses took part in the firm's annual charity football tournament at Stourbridge Rugby Club on June 25.

That evening, the Higgs & Sons choir took part in a national singing competition at Southwark Cathedral in London.

The six-a-side football tournament featured 40 teams from across the region and raised more than £3,800 for the Brierley Hill-based firm's designated charity, The Alzheimer's Society.

"We were thrilled that so many teams from local businesses and professional organisations got involved once again this year," said partner, Richard Griffiths. "With the appearance of three former Wolves players, this year's competition was even bigger and better than ever."

Former Wolves players Mel Eves, Dale Rudge and Jody Craddock turned out for Wolverhampton recruitment company, First4Staff in support of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.



All Star — Jody Craddock

choir recognised in this way really does reflect the talent and commitment of the entire Higgs' staff team," said partner Tim Jones, co-ordinator of the firm's highly successful Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

Ray Nash, senior regional corporate fundraising executive at the Alzheimer's Society, said: "It's fantastic that Higgs and Sons are supporting Alzheimer's Society as their charity of the year. Through our network of local services, we touch the lives of over 30,000 people every week, providing practical services and support for people with dementia and their carers. These two events were fantastic and a big thank you goes out to all those involved."

Former Wolves' players Mel, Dale and Jody will also be part of the Wolves All Stars team taking part in the firm's next big fundraising event. The Higgs & Sons Family Fun Day on September 20 will see a Higgs Select XI take on the Wolves All Stars at Stourbridge FC.

Fire risk from hoarding

CREATIVE Support has teamed up with the West Midlands Fire Service to run an event warning about the dangers of hoarding in the home.

There will be a demonstration of how quickly a fire can spread due to clutter, as part of the event at Brierley Hill Fire Station in Dudley Road, tomorrow (Friday) from noon to 2pm.



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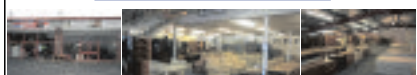


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Bruce Forsyth, Roy Castle, Ben Warris and Ken Dodd, around 1940



Son Paul Langston with a pic of his mother in the 1940s



Amy's second husband Ken Shepherd with comedy legend Tommy Cooper



The Hippodrome during its heyday in the 1950s



Amy with box office manager Mrs Smallwood

Mixing with the stars just the ticket for Amy

SHARING a dance with Richard Attenborough was one of the perks of the job for Amy Shepherd, who rubbed shoulders with the stars during a 20-year stint at Dudley Hippodrome.

Mrs Shepherd, one of the last remaining links to the iconic venue, passed away earlier this month and her son Paul has shared some of her photographs and memorabilia from her time in the ticket office.

Mrs Shepherd left school in 1940 and after a couple of part-time jobs took up her role at the theatre in either 1941 or 1942.

She worked in the box office selling tickets – in very different fashion to the modern online booking system – requiring an encyclopaedic knowledge of the venue's layout.

"All the ticket books were different colours for different parts of the theatre," said Paul, aged 62. "You had to know every gangway, every seat, and relate that to

MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove

the ticket books when people rang in."

According to Paul, his mother "saw them all" – with celebrities including Bob Hope, Julie Andrews, George Formby, Bruce Forsyth, Laurel and Hardy, and Morecambe and Wise all performing at the Hippodrome during her time there.

But experience stands out as a special memory. "She was lucky enough at one stage to dance with Richard Attenborough in the Station Hotel opposite, which is where all the stars stayed," he said.

Growing up in and around the venue at its peak was a thrilling experience for Paul and his brother Neil, 58.

"We used to go and watch all of the pantomimes," he said. "It was a magnificent place and one of the best lighted theatres in Europe."

Mrs Shepherd worked at the Hippodrome until it closed in 1965

and both her two husbands were employed at the venue. Her first marriage was to Keith Langston, Paul's father, who worked as a stage-hand at the venue and went on to be the stage manager at The Plaza in West Bromwich. He died in 1966.

She went on to marry Ken Shepherd, a former stage manager at the Hippodrome and moved to run the Victoria Hotel in Cradley Heath in 1971.

She remained at the hotel until retiring in 1992, but Mr Shepherd passed away just nine months into her retirement.

From 1993 onwards Mrs Shepherd lived in a cottage in Kingswinford and died on July 4 aged 89 after a short illness. Her funeral service took place on Tuesday at Gornal Wood Crematorium.

Mr Langston said he hoped the theatre's future would be secured and that it would be restored to its former glory.

"I know times move on but it used to be such a wonderful place," he said.



Amy Shepherd, who recently died, pictured in 1944

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Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures

DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

The denture looks like any other, but the clever diaphragm development to help hold it secure can give it the edge over its traditional counterparts.

"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner.

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

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Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.



Suction solution



Could this be the answer for you?

"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds. Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw.

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

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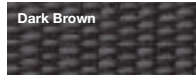
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D8647 Brown
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D7918 Reclining Chair Massage Function - Brown £229.99 Was £399.99

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D3939 Music Centre - Oak

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D7928 Spare Stylus £9.99



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D8791 Portmeirion Hummingbird Jug

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D6611



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D7967



SHAVE
TECH



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D8326

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These eye-catching tablecloths are perfect for indoor and outdoor dining and will protect the surfaces of your table from accidental spills, scratches and stains. The resilient PVC material will look great for years to come and allows you to simply wipe clean with a damp cloth after use. There is an array of attractive patterns and colours to choose from, and they are available in circular, square and rectangular designs to suit your table size and shape.



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D6146



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D8043A 2.6M Telescopic Ladder £79.99 Was £149.99
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D5892



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Solar panel

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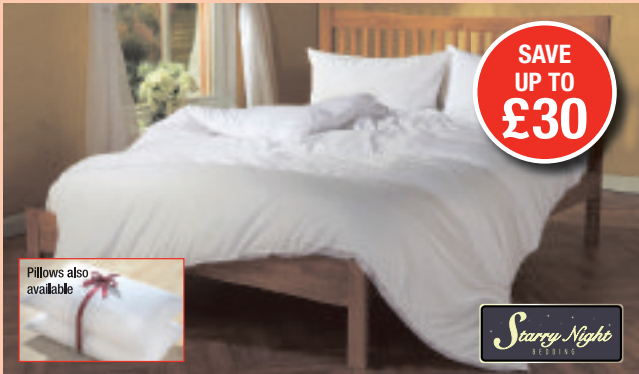
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D7723



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King	D8707	£42.99	£24.99	D7752	£44.99	£27.99	D5754	£54.99	£32.99
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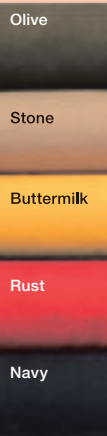
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C290RS Rust
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Zulu beats meet ballet

Inala preview – Page 23



Blues queen

Joanne Shaw Taylor –
Page 23

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The Drifters



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Badly Drawn Boy



Saturday, 7pm
 Town Hall, B'ham

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of The Hour of Bewilderbeast album Damon Gough will be performing the Mercury Prize winning album in its entirety.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Alun Cochrane & Hal Cruttenden



Thursday, 6.45pm
 Glee Club, Birmingham

Join two of the biggest names on the comedy circuit, Alun Cochrane (above) and Hal Cruttenden as they warm up for their Edinburgh Fringe Festival stints.
 Visit www.glee.co.uk

Boycott & Aggers



Monday, 7.30pm
 Symphony Hall, B'ham

Geoffrey Boycott and Jonathan Agnew return to Symphony Hall with their Second Innings tour, ready to amaze and enthrall with their stories, passion and quick-fire wit.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Badly Drawn Boy
 Sat at 7pm - 10.30pm,
 £18 - £22.50
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

The Bon Jovi Experience: Bon Jovi Tribute
 Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £19.50
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Lisa Mills
 Thu at 12pm, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
 DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Iconic 80s
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
 DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Miss Understood: Pink Tribute
 Fri at 7.30pm, £8
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
 DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

God Damn
 Sat at 1pm, £17.50
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Culture Dub Orchestra & Kalillo African Drum Workshop
 Sun at 4pm, Free
 Light House, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Ed Sheeran: The Ed Sheeran Experience Tribute
 Thu at 8.45pm, £5
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
 DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Sonics
 Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £20
 The Institute, Digbeth,
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Voodoo
 Sat at 12am, Free
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
 DY8 3TB.
 Call 01384 374410

Blood Youth
 Sat at 7pm, £5
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
 WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Desperado: The Eagles Tribute
 Sat at 8pm, £15 - £17.50
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Soulfly
 Mon at 7pm, £16
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

The Springsteen Sessions
 Sunday at 8.30pm
 £10/£12
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Guns 2 Roses
 Thursday at 8pm
 £8/£10
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

Colleen Green
 Sun at 7.30pm, £8
 The Sunflower Lounge,
 Birmingham, B5 4EG.
 Call 0121 632 6756

Otis Gibbs Plus Eleanor Dattani
 Wed at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
 £9
 Kitchen Garden Cafe,
 Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

The Paperboys
 Sun at 7.30pm - 11pm, £14
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Irish Music Session
 Wed at 12am,
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
 DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
 Wed at 7.45pm,
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,
 Pittingham,
 Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
 Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
 Thu at 8.30pm,
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
 Walsall Road, Walsall,
 WS3 4BP.
 Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
 Thu at 8pm,
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four
 Ashes Road, Brewood,
 ST19 9HX.
 Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2
 Swan With Two Necks,
 Longdon, WS15 4PN.
 Call 01543 491570

JAZZ & BLUES

Sorana Santos
 Fri at 5pm,
 Symphony Hall, Cafe Bar
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Joanne Shaw Taylor
 Saturday, 8.30pm
 £17.50/ £19.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

OTHER MUSIC

Hum Kalaam
 Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Karen Carpenter Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm, £17.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Shaam E Tarannum
 Sat at 6.30pm, £12.50
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

The American Standard Tour
 Wed at 6.30pm, Free
 The Flapper, Kingston Row,
 Birmingham, B1 2NU.
 Call 0121 236 2421

CBSO Youth Orchestra Academy
 Sunday at 7pm, £20
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
 Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Inala
 Mon, Tue, Wed at 7.30pm
 £22.90 - £42.40
 New Alexandra Theatre,
 Birmingham,
 B5 4DS.
 Call 0844 871 3011

The Pretty Things Peepshow
 Wed at 8pm
 £12.50/£15
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Polly And The Pirates (Over 12s)
 Mon at 7.30pm, £5 - £6.50
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

The National Dance Company Of Ireland: Rhythm Of The Dance
 Sat at 7.30pm, £24
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Sonia Sabri Company: Lok Virsa
 Sun at 12pm - 10pm, Free
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Birmingham Fest : Extreme
 Fri at 9pm - 10.30pm, £8
 Blue Orange Theatre,
 Birmingham, B18 6AD.
 Call 0121 212 2643

Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat (Over 3s)
 Mon at 1pm, 3pm, Tue at 11am,
 1pm, £8 - £12.50
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

Aliens Love Underpants
 Fri at 11am, £12.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
 WV1 1DE.
 Call 01902 573320

Mr Stink
 Thu at 6.30pm, £7.50 - £14
 Worcestershire County
 Museum, DY11 7XZ.
 Call 01299 250416

The Three Little Pigs
 Tue at 3.30pm - 4.30pm, Wed at
 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm,
 Thu at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm -
 2.30pm, £12 - £14
 Birmingham Town Hall,
 B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Barnum
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at
 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm,
 Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 -
 £48.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome,
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story
 Sat at 7pm,
 £25 - £28.80
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
 WV1 1RQ.
 Call 0870 320 7000

Alun Cochrane & Hal Cruttenden
 Thu at 6.45pm - 11pm, £10
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy Carousel & Real Food Canteen
 Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
 £5 - £19.50
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Manford's Comedy Club
 Sat at 7.30pm - 11pm,
 £12.50
 Players Bar Birmingham,
 B1 2HG. Call 0121 643 6817
 Comedy in the Met
 Saturday at 8pm
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
 ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

ART GALLERIES

Stanley Sellers Bequest
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon
 at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am -
 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at
 10am - 5pm, Free
 Birmingham Museum and Art
 Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

Artist Development West Midlands
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at
 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,
 Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am
 - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2
 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Love Is Enough: William Morris And Andy Warhol
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at
 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,
 Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am
 - 5pm, £3 - £17
 Birmingham Museum and Art
 Gallery, B3 3DH.
 Call 0121 303 1966

Antiques For Everyone
 Fri at 12am, Sat at 12am, Sun at
 12am, £12
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
 Call 0121 780 4141

St Ives Artists From The Clive Beardsmore Gift Exhibition
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at
 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall,
 WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Animal Architecture
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at
 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
 WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

FAMILY EVENTS

Digital Music Making: Workshop (Ages 6-11)
 Tue at 10am - 3pm, £10.50
 mac, Cannon Hill Road,
 Birmingham, B12 9QH.
 Call 0121 446 3232

Summer Holiday Family Fun
 Fri at 12am, Sat at 12am, Sun at
 12am, Mon at 12am, Tue at
 12am, Wed at 12am, Thu at
 12am,
 Cadbury World, Bournville,
 Birmingham, B30 2LU.
 Call 0844 880 7667

Central Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 7-12)
 Sun at 11am - 1pm,
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

Diddi Dance: Workshop (Ages 2-4)
 Tue at 10am,
 Newhampton Arts Centre,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
 Call 01902 572090

TALKS

An Evening with Boycott & Aggers - The Second Innings!
 Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm,
 £23.50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
 B1 2EA.
 Call 0121 780 3333

Poetry Bites
 Tue at 12pm
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings
 Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
 Call 0121 443 4725

OTHER EVENTS

Festival Of Black Country Vehicles
 Sun at 12am, £0 - £45
 The Black Country Living
 Museum, Tipton Rd, Dudley,
 DY1 4SQ.
 Call 0121 557 9643

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

New fusion of Zulu music and dance



A scene from Inala, featuring top dancers and choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo, which is coming to Birmingham

FOLLOWING a 2014 tour and sell-out runs at both the Edinburgh International Festival and London's Sadler's Wells, Inala brings together four-time Grammy Award-winning South African choral legends, Ladysmith Black Mambazo with dancers choreographed by the multi-award winning Mark Baldwin.

This unique artistic collaboration sees the Zulu culture-inspired production reworked for 2015 and it comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra

Theatre from Monday to Wednesday as part of a UK tour.

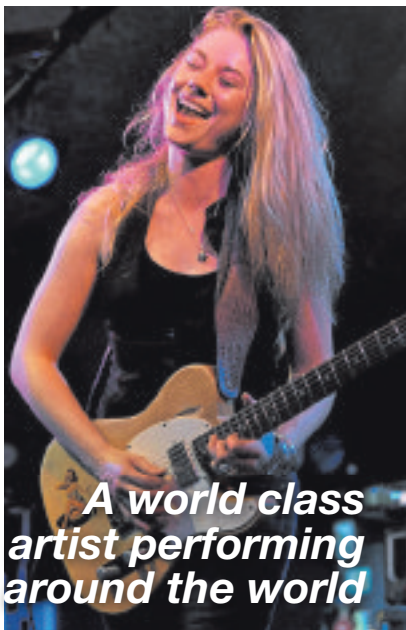
Inala means 'abundance of goodwill' in Zulu and delivers an uplifting live experience, powered by music, song and dance. It features current and former dancers from The Royal Ballet and Rambert with an original score performed by Ladysmith Black Mambazo, created by the group's founder Joseph Shabalala and British composer Ella Spira.

They created the concept for Inala

with the Royal Ballet's Pietra Mello-Pittman, who said: "Inala is influenced by Zulu dancing and South African stories and cultures, creating a new language of dance that respects the traditions of 'pure' classical dance training of all our dancers."

Male choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo found worldwide fame when they sang on Paul Simon's Graceland album in 1986.

For tickets see atgtickets.com/birmingham or call 0844 871 3011.



A world class artist performing around the world

Home grown guitar hero

BLACK Country blues rock singer and guitarist Joanne Shaw Taylor will play her only club show of the summer in Bilston.

The songwriter, who released her latest album, The Dirty Truth, last September, will perform live for fans at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday.

Joanne grew up in the Black Country, leaving school at 16 and running straight into her big break when her demo landed in the hands of Eurhythms icon Dave Stewart after a charity gig.

Her debut album White Sugar followed in 2008 and since then she has released another four albums to critical acclaim from rock and blues pundits across the worlds. She has also moved to live in the United States, where her fiery fretwork is much in demand.

Blues fan and Robin 2 owner Mike Hamblett said: "Joanne played her first ever performance at The Robin in Brierley Hill back in 2000, as a young teenager. "She has gone on to become a world class artist, performing around the world."

He continued: "It gives me great pleasure and is a great honour to see Joanne come back to her roots performing once again at the Robin 2, with special guests Virgil & The Accelerators, another great emerging blues rock talent destined for much bigger things."

Tickets cost £17.50 in advance or £19.50 on the night, available from therobin.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01902 401211.

Comedy, cricket and Carpenters

ONE-NIGHTERS over the forthcoming weekend and week include veteran vocal group The Drifters at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow night (Friday) and Glaswegian comic Kevin Bridges at the Civic Hall in Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Also on Saturday is Voice of the Heart, a two-hour tribute to the music of The Carpenters featuring singer Carole Gordon, the Blue Jeans Band and singers at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Behatted singer-songwriter Badly Drawn Boy is at Birmingham's Town Hall on Saturday, and Geoffrey Boycott and Jonathan Agnew share cricket anecdotes at the Symphony Hall on Monday.

Folk gig is delayed by bizarre accident

A CONCERT by folk veterans The Strawbs has been put back to the new year after singer Dave Cousins choked on a cup of tea and passed out.

The band was due to perform at the Robin 2 in Bilston on July 24. But Dave was taken to hospital on June 16 after choking on a cup of tea. This caused him to lose consciousness, hitting his head. He was discharged on June 19 but the accident dislodged a kidney stone and on June 24 he was operated on.

The band's leader for 50 years, he is recovering well but is not yet fit enough to tour. The show has been rescheduled for April 27.

Autumn of rock in West Midlands

AUTUMN is shaping up to be a memorable season for indie rock fans with some choice gigs.

US psych band Wand play The Rainbow in Digbeth on September 12. Rising stars Wolf Alice, one of the hits of Glas-tonbury, play The Institute on September 17. In October highlights include West Midlands homecomings for Peace at Wolverhampton Civic (Oct 10) and Swim Deep at The Institute (Oct 17). Singer-songwriter James Bay is at O2 Academy in Brum (Oct 8), London's next big thing Gengahar are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath (Oct 12) and Liverpool's Circa Waves play The Institute (Oct 16).

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Sunset at Clifton Bay

Cape Town – so much to see, so little time, but so worthwhile

FORTY-EIGHT hours in Cape Town – so much to do, so little time. But as a tag-on to a safari or the Garden Route, it's worthwhile.

Food, wine, culture and cabs are ridiculously cheap thanks to the strong pound against the rand.

On my visit, I plan to take in the obvious highlights for first-time visitors.

I start with a visit to the jewel in the geological crown of this diverse metropolis, the majestic Table Mountain, a sandstone wonder of the world which looms large wherever you go in the city.

The string of peaks known as the 12 Apostles are a favourite with hikers, but I chose to join the queue for the Cableway cable car on a five-minute ride to the top (adult return 225 rand/around £12.50). A

By Hannah Stephenson

revolving floor within the car ensures all budding photographers have a 360 degree birds' eye view.

You could spend a good few hours up here balancing your yin and yang. Young visitors sunbathe on the rocks, others seek out the flora, fauna and wildlife – I see lizards, but there are also guinea-pig-like creatures called rock rabbits, or dassies, and nearly 1,500 species of fynbos, including proteas, ericas and reeds.

After Table Mountain, I head for the lush vineyards of Constantia, around 20 minutes away, to test my palate with a wine-tasting session at Bistro Sixteen82 at Steenberg Farm, which produces some of the country's finest wine.

To blow the cobwebs away after lunch, I head for Boulders Beach, home to colonies

of African penguins nesting on the beach and waddling about on the rocks. You pay 60 rand (£3.30) to get in, but have good vantage points from the boardwalk.

Further up the coastline of False Bay, I stop off for souvenirs at the quirky, bohemian seaside town of Kalk Bay.

Sophisticated

After a full day, I'm ready to try some of South Africa's finest fare. Cape Town offers a wealth of sophisticated dining based on local produce. I try springbok and ostrich while I'm here, as well as abundant seafood, from freshly caught tuna and angel fish, to oysters and scallops.

The next day, I venture to the spot I anticipate will be the highlight of my 48 hours – Robben Island. Catching the ferry from the Nelson Mandela Gateway at the fashionable V&A Waterfront, a symbol of Cape

Town's resurgence post-apartheid with its trendy restaurants, upmarket shopping malls, colonial-style buildings and working harbour, Robben Island and all it represents could be a million miles away.

It's actually a half-hour boat ride to the island, a Unesco World Heritage Site, which had been used as a prison since the 17th century and also served as a leper colony and as a lunatic asylum. We're taken on a bus around this desolate scrubland stopping at the limestone quarry where the prisoners spent their days breaking rocks in the scorching sun.

Back on the mainland, I experience the other extreme, namely fashionable Clifton, one of the wealthiest areas of Cape Town.

Here, we stay at Cape View, which calls itself a luxury guesthouse but that's a huge understatement. Checking my watch, I've done my 48 hours but I wish I had more...

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CHOICE



Len Goodman

Dancing Through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story (BBC2, 9.10pm)
To commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day, Jools Holland, Lucy Worsley and Len Goodman celebrate the big band sound and explore the social history behind the music that saw Britain through the Second World War. They trace the evolution of big band music from its beginnings in 1920s America to its glory days in the three decades that followed. Jools demonstrates how the big band sound developed through the influence of legends such as Duke Ellington, while Len and Lucy explore the dancing that accompanied big bands during the war, like the energetic Jitterbug. Featuring contributions by Petula Clark, Roy Hudd and Juliet Gardiner.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Box. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.20 Live Athletics: Anniversary Games.** Coverage from the Olympic Stadium in London. **5.20 Celebrity Mastermind.** With Ken Dodd, Ore Oduba, Lizzy Yarnold and Alex Riley. **(R) 5.50 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong quizzes eight chart-topping singers - Paul Young and Carol Decker, Sheila Ferguson and Dana, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott and Keith Duffy and Mikey Graham. **(R)**
6.40 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Prized Apart. The four remaining adventurers in Morocco compete on the side of Barrage el Mansour's dam, as the series reaches a dramatic finale. Last in the series.
8.05 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. The all-important winning numbers are revealed.
9.00 Casualty. Jacob starts his first day at Holby's accident and emergency department, and he immediately has to put his powers of persuasion to use when a lie nearly costs a girl her life. Medical drama, starring Charles Venn.
9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes looks after a robotic baby that has been given to Dermot and Maria to help them prepare for their new arrival, but uses unorthodox methods to top the fake infant from crying. Meanwhile, Cathie develops a crush on her psychology lecturer. Comedy, written by and starring Brendan O'Carroll. **(R)**
10.20 BBC News: Weather: National Lottery Update.
10.40 Not Going Out. The friends jet off on a summer holiday, only for Lucy and Daisy to endure the worst flight of their lives when Lee gets a bad case of the jitters on the plane. **(R)**
11.10 Film: The Proposal. (2009) A Canadian publishing editor trying to avoid deportation from America bribes her assistant into a marriage of convenience. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds.
12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.00 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.35 Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice One. (R) 8.15 Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice Two. (R) 9.55 Live Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice Three. 11.10 F1 Rewind: First Wins. 12.10 Gene Kelly: Talking Pictures. (R) 12.45 Film: Singin' in the Rain. (1952) Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly. **2.30 Escape to the Continent. 3.30 Flog It! (R) 4.00 The House That £100K Built. (R) 5.00 The House That £100K Built.** Journalist Kieran Long and architect Piers Taylor follow the progress of Sholto and his partner Marcus, whose dream to build a dream home near Inverness has proved problematic. **(R)**
6.00 Ocean Queens: The Story of Cunard. As all three of Cunard's world famous liners make an historic visit to Liverpool, Simon O'Brien reflects on 175 years of pioneering transatlantic travel.
6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don travels to Cambridge for a tour of the garden at Clare College. He also catches up with various seasonal tasks at Longmeadow and harvests the first of his tomato crop. **(R)**
7.00 Proms Extra 2015. New series. Katie Derham chats to violinist Nicola Benedetti, who performs in the studio. Plus, previews of the week's concerts and David Owen Norris presents inside the Score.
7.40 Edwardian Farm. Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn set sail on a fishing trip, steering a wind-powered vessel, casting a net and masting sea shanties. Meanwhile, Ruth Goodman holds a seance. **(R)**
8.40 Dad's Army. The bumbling platoon boosts its fighting strength by acquiring an armoured car. Classic comedy, starring Clive Dunn and Arthur Lowe. **(R)**
9.10 Dancing Through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day, Jools Holland, Lucy Worsley and Len Goodman celebrate the big band sound that saw Britain through the Second World War.
10.40 Film: Zodiac. (2007) Fact-based crime thriller following the hunt for a serial killer who terrorised San Francisco in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Robert Downey Jr.
1.10 Film: Repo Chick. (2009) **2.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.35 Surprise Surprise. (R) 2.35 The Chase. (R) 3.30 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 4.15 Tipping Point. (R) 5.15 Catchphrase. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 You've Been Framed! Comedy from the mind of Harry Hill, inspired by viewers' videos. A toy bear is interrogated for information, a little girl's prayers turn into a terrifying threat. Disney princesses conduct body searches and One Direction vandalise a family home. Plus, the Great Susan Boyle Eyebrow Race and tips for keeping a marriage fresh. **(R)**
7.00 Film: Despicable Me. (2010) A criminal mastermind hopes to seal his reputation as the greatest villain of them all by stealing the moon. First he needs to get his hands on a shrinking ray owned by a rival evil genius, and adopts three orphan girls to help him - but finds that fatherhood brings out his long-buried caring side. Animated comedy, with the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand and Julie Andrews.
9.00 The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One. The spotlight is turned to the 1980s - a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Featuring interviews with Spandau Ballet, Bonnie Tyler and Madness, plus a look at the stories behind chart classics such as Don't You Want Me, Tainted Love, Billie Jean and Come On Eileen. Zoe Ball narrates.
10.25 ITV News: Weather. 10.45 Film: Twins. (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their unknown mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito.
12.40 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00 Ejector Seat. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Ironman UK Bolton. 6.35 FIM Superbike World Championship. 7.00 IPC World Swimming Championships 2015. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 Rude(ish) Tube. 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and York. **4.10 Come Dine With Me. (R) 4.45 Come Dine With Me. (R) 5.15 Come Dine With Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine With Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine With Me. It is the final dinner party in Lancashire and the turn of sales manager Andy to host. He is confident in his locally sourced menu, but faces the challenge of impressing Nicky. **(R)**
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Homes by the Sea. Architectural designer Charlie Lutton visits the Isle of Skye in the Inner Hebrides to explore how some of the island's abandoned buildings are being brought back to life by an influx of newcomers. He explores a traditional Skye longhouse, which blends Scottish simplicity and Scandinavian chic, before viewing a white property and a contemporary farm house. Previously seen on More4.
8.00 Walking Through History: Norman Conquest of Pembrokeshire. Tony Robinson embarks on a four-day walk tracing the story of the Norman invasion of Wales, which he discovers was very different from the victory at Hastings. **(R)**
9.00 Film: Pitch Perfect. (2012) Premiere. A new student finds herself a social outcast during her first year of college, but soon acquires a new circle of friends in a band of misfits with a shared talent for singing. She joins their a cappella group and leads them to compete in the campus music competitions. Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson.
11.15 Film: The Tourist. (2010) A woman tries to trick the police into thinking a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.
1.15 The Last Leg. (R) 2.15 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.30 Secret Eaters. (R) 5.25 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. 5.30 Draw It! (R) 5.55 How I Met Your Mother. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 11.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.40 Cowboy Builders. (R) 1.35 Film: Columbus: Dead Weight. (1971) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. **(R) 4.05 Weather Terror: Brits in Peril. (R) 5.05 5 News.** The day's headlines. **5.10 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild.** A former financier who lives on a remote island in Laos. **(R)**
6.10 Benefits: 19 Kids and Counting the Cost. Three women on benefits who are struggling to bring up their children, including a mother-of-seven who also cares for her husband as he has health problems. Last in the series. **(R)**
7.00 Nightmarish Tenants, Slum Landlords. Landlord Nicholas Parrington discovers a couple are subletting his house, just months after a previous tenant had turned the property into a brothel, while investors in a community centre for children are agast when squatters move into their building. In Lewisham, the council's Rogue Landlord Unit raids one of their main streets, on the lookout for slum conditions, illegal overcrowding and criminal activities. **(R)**
8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High-court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner face some tough decisions when they are given the task of repossessing a house in which a woman is living with two young children. They also pursue a debt of more than £25,000 and visit a tenant in a fashionable London borough who has not paid his rent. **(R)**
9.00 Transporter: The Series. In Berlin, ex-special forces agent Frank finds a simple chauffeur job ferrying rich young socialite Delia back to her father quickly turns into a protection task after learning German crime lord Frieder Trumpf is aiming to kidnap the young heiress. Action drama, starring Chris Vance. Previously seen on Spike.
10.00 Live Championship Boxing. Nick Blackwell v Damon Jones. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the British Middleweight title, held at Derby Arena.
12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride. 9.00 Film: Shrek (2001) 10.25 Live at the Apollo 11.10 Family Guy. 1.30 People Just Do Nothing. 2.00 Some Girls. 3.30 People Just Do Nothing. 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom. 8.00 Pappan's Classical Voices: Baritone & Basses. 9.00 Cordon 10.45 The Heart of Country: How Nashville Became Music City USA 12.15 Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music. 1.15 Top of the Pops: 1980 1.50 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom 2.50 Timeshift: How to Be a Lady - An Elegant History 3.50 Close
ITV2
11.25 Catchphrase Celebrity Special 12.25 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 12.55 Film: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005) 3.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. 4.45 Film: The Lake House (2006) 6.50 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) 9.00 Film: Love Actually (2003) 11.45 Film: Troy (2004) 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.10 Rosemary & Thyme 12.50 A Touch of Frost 4.50 Film: Columbus: Forgotten Lady (1975) 6.55 Doc Martin 8.00 Rosemary & Thyme 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.05 Agatha Christie's Marple 1.05 Wire in the Blood 2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 Tour de France Highlights 12.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 20th stage. 4.00 Big Brother 6.50 Film: Championship Highlights 5.00 Counting Cars 6.00 Storage Wars: Texas 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 8.00 Film: The Living Daylights (1987) 10.40 Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) 1.05 Tour de France Highlights 1.35 The Cycle Show 2.45 Movies Now 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Melissa & Joey 12.30 Baby Daddy 1.30 How I Met Your Mother 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.30 Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Shallow Hal (2001) 11.15 Gogglebox 12.50 Bad Robots 1.20 Tube Tube 2.25 Virtually Famous 3.10 How I Met Your Mother 3.50 Rude(ish) Tube 4.15 Revenge
Film4
1.00 Silent Running (1972) 1.00 Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 3.05 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (2012) 4.45 The Grinch (2003) 6.55 Scrooged (1988) 9.00 Transporter 3 (2008) 11.05 Hush (2008) 12.50 The Insider (1999) 4.00 Close

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CHOICE



Fiona Bruce

Fake or Fortune?
(BBC1, 8pm)

Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould help Under-Sheriff and Secondary of London Charles Henty investigate whether two paintings in his possession are as valuable as he thinks. The first is a landscape picture of Dedham in Essex, thought to have been painted by pre-eminent British artist Alfred Munnings, and the second painting is of a medieval French village, and was rumoured to have been produced by part-time painter, full-time prime minister Winston Churchill. Charles hopes the sale of these two potentially pricey heirlooms will help protect jobs at a working French farm he inherited from his late uncle, but first he must learn whether the pictures are truly genuine. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Live Formula 1: The Hungarian Grand Prix. Coverage of the race from the Hungaroring (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.15** A Question of Sport. (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.00** Lifeline. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.**6.50 Regional Programme.**

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison, Adam Henson and Tom Heap visit the Kent County Show for the programme's summer special. John Hammond uses a weird and wonderful experiment to demonstrate why the area's climate is so good for growing fruit, while there are displays from the Metropolitan Mounted Police and a Spitfire fly-by to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Football Focus presenter Dan Walker is also on hand to commentate on a race with a difference as the presenters pit their wits against each other, including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould explore the history of two potentially valuable pictures thought to have been painted by Alfred Munnings and Winston Churchill. Last in the series.

9.00 Partners in Crime. New series. Crime drama based on novels by Agatha Christie. An ordinary married couple are thrust into a world of international espionage. Starring David Walliams and Jessica Raine, with Clarke Peters, Alice Krige and James Fleet.

10.00 BBC News.**10.20 Regional Programme.**

10.30 Prized Apart. The four remaining adventurers in Morocco compete on the side of Barrage de Mansour's dam, as the series reaches a dramatic finale. Last in the series. (R)

11.35 Don't Tell the Bride. Darren plans a movie premiere-inspired wedding for his bride-to-be Jacqui and has a budget of £14,000 to spend, but she is hoping for a small, elegant and traditional event. (R)

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.40** Countryfile. (R) **8.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.55** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.25** BMX World Championships. **10.25** Saturday Kitchen Best Blues. **11.55** The Box. (R) **12.25** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.25** Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.15** Film: Shall We Dance? (1937) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Two Tribes. **5.00** Hair. (R) **5.30** Hair. (R)

6.00 Ghost Bear Family: Natural World. Canadian film-maker Jeff Turner and his own family spend a year with a family of North American black bears that are born pure white due to a quirk of genetics. (R)

7.00 Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways. The development of the UK's rail network, from its beginnings as a primitive system of trackways for coal carts in the early 18th century up to the present day. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. A pair of entrepreneurs try to persuade the Dragons to invest in their potential solution to tidying TV cables, while Peter, Touker and Nick test out muscle enhancing clothing.

9.00 Odyssey. Odelle is reunited with her young friend Aslam, while Harrison makes inquiries about a story his father left unfinished. Thriller, starring Anna Friel and Jake Robinson.

9.45 The Javone Prince Show. The PhoneShop and Horrible Histories actor is attacked by ninjas, reveals Will.i.am's new role as a HR consultant, hears all about his announcer's grudge against actor Idris Elba.

10.15 Family Guy. Brian becomes an estate agent after having cosmetic surgery.

10.35 Family Guy. Peter and Quagmire form a singer-songwriter partnership.

10.55 Family Guy. Peter goes on a quest to save Quagmire's annual Christmas carnival from cancellation, which involves transforming his father-in-law from a scrooge to a home-town hero.

11.20 Film: Adventureland (2009) Comedy, with Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart and Ryan Reynolds.

1.00 Film: Kicks. (2009) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **2.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.35** Film: King Ralph (1991) The British royal family is wiped out in a freak accident, making a slobbish Las Vegas singer the claimant to the throne. Comedy, with John Goodman, Peter O'Toole and John Hurt.

6.25 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.40** ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Meet the Penguins. Documentary following the story of Adrian Walls, head of birds at London Zoo, as he fulfils a lifelong ambition to see endangered Humboldt penguins in the wilds of Peru.

8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby celebrates one last selection of public heroes, including a woman with cancer who helps terminally ill people enjoy the wedding of their dreams. Last in the series.

9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure. Joanna concludes her journey, visiting the city where the Russian royal family was killed, before returning to the place where she was photographed in 1966. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.

Kelly Holmes, Mike Tindall and Vogue Williams battle to be crowned winner, as they abseil down a waterfall and follow the sound of a distress signal. Last in the series. (R)

11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Beverley Callard. Coronation Street star looks back on her acting career and turbulent personal life. She reveals how a nervous breakdown led her to the brink of suicide. She also reflects on her four marriages, and opens up about her grandfather, who was jailed for killing a man. (R)

12.10 Jackpot! **247. 3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie: Revue of the Night. **12.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.45** LazyTown. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Access. **10.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.10** Film: Momma's House 2. (2006) Comedy sequel, starring Martin Lawrence. **5.10** News Weekend. **5.15** Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. (R)

8.00 Experimental. New series. Presenter Tim Shaw and daredevil friend Buddy Munro travel the globe to recreate some of the most famous – and dangerous – viral videos to have ever appeared on the internet, hoping to uncover the scientific truth behind them in the process. In the first episode, Tim tries to remake a video of Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic playing tennis on the wings of a flying plane, taking Buddy to Germany to see if they can achieve the same on an Antonov AN-2 aircraft. Strapped to the wings, Buddy challenges a professional air-acrobat to a rally hundreds of metres above the German countryside. The pair also drop 7,000 mint sweets into 1,000 litres of cola, and Buddy tries an unusual fireman's lift in Whitehaven, Cumbria – being elevated on a platform by just the force of fire engine water hoses.

9.00 Humans. Pete tries to find out who Karen really is, but is unprepared for what he finds out. Laura provides the fugitive signs with a safe hiding place as Hobbs closes in on them.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, in which Sean Lock and Mel Giedroyc compete against Lee Mack and David O'Doherty. With Adam Buxton in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.00 Film: The Change-Up. (2011) Two friends envy each other's lives, but when they magically switch bodies, they both learn that the other does not have it so easy. Comedy, with Jason Bateman.

1.10 Channel 4 Comedy Gala 2015: Best Bits. **2.00** Come Dine With Me. (R) **4.25** You Deserve This House. (R) **5.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. **5.30** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.45** LazyTown. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Access. **10.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Richie Rich. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **3.10** Film: Momma's House 2. (2006) Comedy sequel, starring Martin Lawrence. **5.10** News Weekend. **5.15** Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. (R)

8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Winnie Jones. The actor introduces more clips of police in action, in Lincolnshire, officers are not on the heels of a burglar, a roadside stop results in a huge bag of cannabis being discovered, and Jon Peacock encounters the country's fussiest felon. Plus, police in Essex deal with a potential hostage situation. Previously seen on Spike.

9.00 Film: Resident Evil: Retribution. (2012) Premiere. Zombie fighter Alice finds herself trapped in a top-secret underground base as a virus sweeps the world, turning the human race into the undead.

10.00 Tour de France Highlights 1.00 Tour de France Live: La Course. The women's 90km race. **3.00** Tour de France: New York **4.00** Tour de France Live: Coverage of the 21st stage. **7.00** Counting Cars **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00** Film: Tango & Cash **11.55** Film: DOA: Dead or Alive (2006) **1.40** Duck Dynasty **2.05** Tour de France Highlights **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

12.25 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.30** The Big Bang Theory – E4's Top 20 **8.00** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **10.15** Googlebox **11.55** Film: Scary Movie 2 (2001) **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.35** Rules of Engagement **3.20** Hollywoods

11.00 An Elephant Calmed Slowly (1970) **1.00** Step Up 3 (2010) **3.10** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **4.50** Honey, I Shrink the Kids (1989) **6.40** The Game (2003) **9.00** Taken (2008) **10.50** End of Watch (2012) **1.00** Gone Too Far! (2013)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Film: Meet the Fockers (2004) **10.50** Live at the Apollo **11.20** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **12.25** Family Guy **12.50** People Just Do Nothing **1.20** Don't Take My Baby **2.20** The Ugly Face of Disability Hate Crime **3.15** Live at the Apollo **3.50** Great TV Mistakes

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.15** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need is the Music **9.00** A Blackpool Big Band Boogie. Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra **10.00** Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza **11.00** The Golden Age of Steam Railways **12.00** Brakeless: Why Trains Crash – Storyville **1.00** Great American Rock Anthems: Turn It Up to 11 **2.00** What Ever Happened to Rock 'n' Roll? **3.00** The Golden Age of Steam Railways

ITV2
12.15 Take Me Out **1.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.45** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **3.45** Film: Beethoven (1991) **5.50** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.15** Film: Johnny English (2003) **9.00** Film: 300 (2006) **11.20** Saturday **12.00** Film: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1987) **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.00 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **1.05** Film: Vanity Fair (2004) **3.55** Film: On the Buses (1971) **5.45** A Touch of Frost **8.50** Inspector Morse **10.20** Birds of a Feather **10.50** Film: Something's Gotta Give (2003) **1.15** Blue Murder **2.40** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.00 Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Tour de France Live: La Course. The women's 90km race. **3.00** Tour de France: New York **4.00** Tour de France Live: Coverage of the 21st stage. **7.00** Counting Cars **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Tour de France Highlights **10.00** Film: Tango & Cash **11.55** Film: DOA: Dead or Alive (2006) **1.40** Duck Dynasty **2.05** Tour de France Highlights **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
From Hell, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A detective tries to use his opium-triggered visions to put an end to Jack the Ripper's reign of terror over 19th-century London. But in the course of his investigation, he uncovers a sinister conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of Victorian society. Mystery thriller, based on Alan Moore's comic book series, starring Johnny Depp. (2001)

TUESDAY
Twelve Monkeys, BBC1, 11.45pm
A time traveller from 2035 journeys back to the 1990s to discover the cause of a deadly disease that ravaged the world, only to be thrown into an asylum. He meets a fellow patient who may hold the key to his mission, but the longer he spends in the past, the more he comes to question whether he really is from the future or simply delusional. Terry Gilliam's sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt. (1995)

WEDNESDAY
Dear Viola, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A shy woman takes over a newspaper's advice column and soon begins to fall in love with a widower she starts corresponding with. Romantic comedy, starring Kellie Martin. (2014)



Al: Artificial Intelligence, Friday, BBC1, 11.15pm

THURSDAY
A Killer Among Us, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A homicide detective refuses to give up when the murder of a woman goes unsolved, and continues to discreetly investigate after the case is closed. He becomes convinced the victim's husband is the killer, and recruits their teenage daughter as an accomplice to gather evidence against her own father. Crime thriller, starring Tess Atkins and Tom Cavanagh. (2012)

FRIDAY
Al: Artificial Intelligence, BBC1, 11.15pm
A robot boy programmed to see his owner as a parent tries to become human, so the 'mother' who rejected him will love him. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment, Jude Law, William Hurt and Frances O'Connor. (2001)

Couple are drawn into a dangerous world

Think of Agatha Christie and what immediately springs to mind? Probably fastidious Belgian detective Hercule Poirot and sharp-as-a-tack pensioner Miss Marple.

In fact, there are maybe even some people who have never read any of her work that believe Christie's output only features those two formidable characters.

But how wrong they are.

Christie wrote a variety of books and short stories that featured neither of them, as well as four novels and a collection of tales featuring the adventures of Tommy and Tuppence Beresford, a pair of married amateur detectives.

The Beresfords first popped up in 1922, and their adventures spanned the next 50 years – indeed their final story, *Postern of Fate*, was the last novel written by Christie.

This take on their tales takes place solely in the 1950s and stars David Walliams and Jessica Raine as the daring duo. It also mixes espionage, drama and humour against the backdrop of the Cold War.

The first run features two stories – *The Secret Adversary* and *N or M?* – and lasts six weeks. Christie's books are relatively short and tend to be adapted into feature-length dramas, so it's refreshing that here, viewers have something to really get their teeth into – as well as the potential for cliffhangers at the end of each episode.

In fact, the whole project appears to have been put together with tender loving care.

"David Walliams and Hilary Strong from the Agatha Christie Group came to discuss the fact that they wanted to reinvent *Tommy and Tuppence*," says executive producer Hilary Bevan Jones. "David was particularly tickled by the idea of a married amateur detective duo and the image of them bickering over a dead body."

"Christie has a wonderful sense of humour and I'm not sure how many people of this generation know that. We decided to think of it as Indiana Jones meets Agatha Christie."

Eyebrows may be raised at the thought of Walliams playing Tommy, but Zinnie Harris, who adapted their first case, *The Secret Adversary*, for the small screen, reckons he's perfect.

"David is a wonderful Tommy as I always thought he would be," she reveals. "He is a great combination of brave, gung-ho and a bit left-footed which is quite a hard thing to pull off. I love what he has done with the character."

"But more than that, David and I worked quite closely as the first script was being shaped and written so he brought masses to the whole series. He was a great collaborator as all those early decisions about tone and story were being made. In fact many of the best ideas were his"

Will we be seeing more of Tommy and Tuppence once this run is over? According to Walliams, that's up to us.

"We certainly hope there will be more Tommy and Tuppence adventures," he remarks. "There are more books to adapt and it's been a real pleasure filming these two stories. But ultimately, it's what the public think. If the public enjoy it, then I am sure there will be more. It has been a brilliant adventure so far..."



Jessica Raine and David Walliams star in *Partners in Crime*, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Food Unwrapped: Diets for Summer, Channel 4, 8pm
Jimmy Doherty, Kate Quilton and Matt Tebbutt reveal the latest scientific tips and ideas on how food can help people tone up their bodies. Jimmy goes on an east Asian adventure to look for the mystery ingredient in a new range of diet foods containing konjac noodles, which have no fat and virtually no calories, and also discovers that finding out the caloric content of alcohol isn't easy. Kate examines research suggesting eating nuts can help shed pounds rather than piling them on, while Matt investigates ways to hone biceps and abs.

TUESDAY
The Three Day Nanny, Channel 4, 8pm
Is it really possible to turn the life of a family around in just three days? If the first run of this series is anything to go by, yes. It followed the progress of professional childminder Kathryn Mewes, who has spent the past 20 or so years taking care of youngsters. During that time, she has developed certain methods that can help parents with badly behaved children. Dom Bird, Channel 4's head of formats, says: "I am delighted to be bringing Nanny Mewes' expertise back to the screens as she

tackles the behavioural problems of a whole new set of children and fretful parents." She begins in East Grinstead, West Sussex, where Susan and James Rogers are having trouble with three-year-old twins Alfie and Harry.

WEDNESDAY
The Day They Dropped The Bomb, ITV, 10.40pm
On August 6, 1945 the world changed forever, when a uranium gun-type atomic bomb (codenamed Little Boy) was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima by the US Air Force's Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay. Little Boy exploded 2,000 feet above the city, destroyed five square miles, and eventually killed in excess of 160,000 people. This documentary marks the 70th anniversary of the day the world's first atomic bomb was detonated, and features an in-depth account of what happened on that tragic day, through rarely seen archive footage and unique interviews with eyewitnesses. Also interviewed is Enola Gay navigator Theodore Van Kirk,



BBQ Champ, Friday, ITV, 9pm

who was the last surviving member of the crew who dropped the bomb, before his death last year.

THURSDAY
The Holiday Airport: Sun, Sea & Scousers, Channel 5, 8pm
Grand National fever hits the airport as hundreds of excited race-goers pass through for the annual steeplechase. A skateboarding crew from Herefordshire are en route to Barcelona, but when it turns out some of them have a fear of flying, it seems they might not get very far, while a woman who has lost more than eight stone fuels up at the airport restaurants and bars before flying out to Palma for the sporting challenge of a lifetime.

FRIDAY
BBQ Champ, ITV, 9pm
For some people, a successful BBQ means that the burgers are only burnt on

the outside and no one goes home with food poisoning. But this new series, which could also have been called the Great British Grill Off, sees presenter Myleene Klass inviting a group of contestants to combine raw meat and fire to make something truly spectacular in the hope of being declared King or Queen of the BBQ. Each week, the hopefuls will be given two chances to impress judges Adam Richman of *Man vs Food* fame, and British chef and restaurateur Mark Blatchford as they take part in one challenge at BBQ HQ before heading off to another on location. This week, that means rustling up a dish that shows off their personality, before working together to create a barbecue buffet.

Ripper Street, BBC1, 9pm
There were howls of outrage in December 2013 when it was announced that there wouldn't be a third series of this gritty period drama. Luckily, the BBC listened, as they subsequently teamed up with Amazon Prime to revive the show. And now, for anyone who hasn't already watched it online, here's a chance to see why the fans wanted to keep it going, as the third season come to the BBC. In this opening edition, the robbery of a goods train and a locomotive disaster on Leman Street leads Reid, Drake and Jackson to reunite after four years apart.

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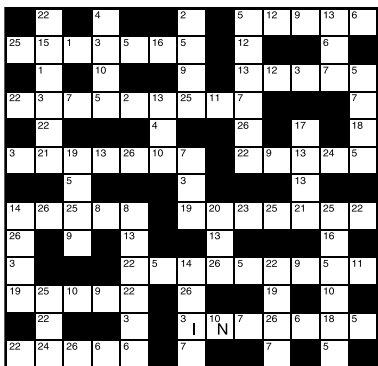
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BRAIN GYM No.335

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

E	R	D	G	X	T	F	H	S	N	L	K	P
J	Y	Z	B	W	I	V	Q	A	U	M	O	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

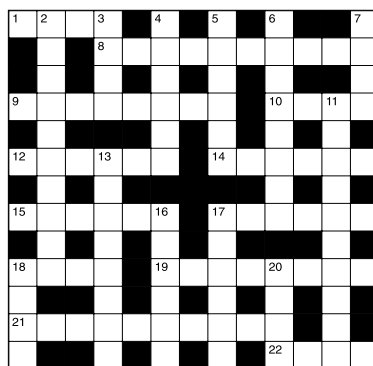
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Come a cropper in the cropping season? (4)
- Apropos the sign of possession... (10)
- ... be seen again to gather fruit (8)
- Shed players (4)
- It's obvious father can camp (6)
- Fearsome things almost - they can't be right! (6)
- Didn't get the desired husband? (6)
- Despises ship holding grain (6)
- The weather they have at Spithead at present (4)
- Flowers, perhaps (8)
- Failed to notice being in somebody's view (10)
- Favourites return at the interval (4)

Down

- Later change a can with nothing in it for a change (10)
- The French politician throws light on things (4)
- Powerful ring given for article in 12 (6)
- Averts disaster only to die of hunger (6)
- Entertainment with nothing but a musical composition (8)
- Master the rhythm? (4)
- A season in leap-year, no doubt (10)
- Tread was pointing to the rising sun (8)
- It may mean no treat when he treats! (6)
- Match action taken by workers (6)
- Tops up here (4)
- The last things to associate with odds (4)



Quick Clues:

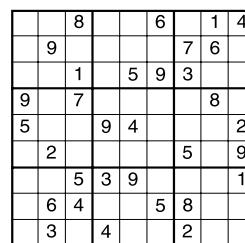
Across

- Girl (4)
- Ineffective (10)
- Footpath (8)
- Not new (4)
- Amuse (6)
- Marauder (6)
- Put in (6)
- Invent (6)
- Liability (4)
- Capsize (8)
- Confederate (10)
- Humble (4)

Down

- Disagreeing (2,8)
- Certain (4)
- Mourn (6)
- Railery (6)
- Light up (8)
- Old (4)
- Voters (10)
- Building (6)
- Company (6)
- Believe (6)
- Do business (4)
- Pour (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	5	6	1	3	7
2	7	6	1	8	3	9	5	4
5	3	1	7	9	4	2	6	8
8	2	4	5	6	7	3	9	1
7	1	3	8	2	9	6	4	5
6	5	9	4	3	1	8	7	2
1	6	5	3	7	8	4	2	9
9	4	7	6	1	2	5	8	3
3	8	2	9	4	5	7	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Image; 8 Ironing; 9 Handsaw; 10 Locum; 12 Large print; 15 Rolling sea; 16 Eight; 19 Ordinal; 21 Find out; 22 Amiss. Down: 1 Light verse; 2 Maine; 3 Pens; 4 Bigwig; 5 Collapse; 6 Circuit; 11 Metabolism; 13 Aviation; 14 Elegant; 16 Ghosts; 17 Anvil; 20 Drag. QUICK - Across: 7 Touch; 8 Actions; 9 Tunes; 10 Rider; 12 Settlement; 15 Evanescent; 18 Year; 19 Uniform; 21 Classic; 22 Learn. Down: 1 Stationery; 2 Funny; 3 Chef; 4 Tablet; 5 Surgeon; 6 Soldier; 11 Retirement; 13 Evenness; 14 Caravan; 16 Crutch; 17 Focal; 20 Idle.

Thinking space

Quiz

- What nationality was detective writer Georges Simenon?
- In what year was the St. Valentine's Day massacre?
- What type of variety act was made popular by Edgar Bergen and Ray Alan?
- Who was born first, Yoko Ono or John Lennon?
- With which branch of science do you associate Copernicus?
- Which agricultural pioneer invented the seed drill?
- What was the real surname of American black muslim leader Malcolm X?
- From which country did the U.S. buy Florida?
- Of which country was Juan Peron the president?
- What does RADAR stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Violin; 2 22; 3 Franklin D Roosevelt; 4 Hiram Maxim; 5 New Zealand; 6 Capability; 7 Ruritania; 8 1983; 9 The first men's and women's public flushing lavatories; 10 Escoffier.
Niner: HYPOCRITE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

835 gives an animal,
91529 gives a large bird,
5362745 gives a baby bird.



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It has a dining hall with a galleryed landing, hallway with WC, lounge with inglenook fireplace and logburner, ground-floor bedroom/study, breakfast-kitchen with granite worktops, electric oven, hob and hood, plus a utility. The first floor has master bedroom with a dressing room and en suite, two double bedrooms and bathroom. There are gardens and a double garage.

Contact the agents on 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Semi-detached home on the market at £124,950



A WELL-PRESENTED and extended three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Up-lands Road, Dudley, is available for sale through Trinity Property at £124,950.

Neutrally decorated throughout, it comprises entrance hall, large lounge with feature fireplace and dining area.

In the kitchen are wood-effect units and contrasting working surfaces. There is a separate utility room.

Upstairs is a bathroom with a white suite and three bedrooms.

There is a private rear garden. The property has double glazing and central heating.

For further information or to arrange a viewing contact Trinity Property on (01384) 213 395 or visit the website at www.trinityproperty.net



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HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£900 pcm+Fees
A unique opportunity to rent this lovely traditional semi-detached house in central Halesowen. This property comprises of: Front reception room, rear lounge, modern fitted kitchen, beautiful rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage. Available August. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Grange Road£750 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent this lovely traditional semi-detached house in central Halesowen. This property comprises of: Front reception room, rear lounge, modern fitted kitchen, beautiful rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage. Available August. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Woodman Road£675 pcm+Fees
Hicks Hadley are delighted to bring to the market a deeply spacious 3 bedroom mid terrace house in a very desirable quiet cul-de-sac in central Halesowen. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, low maintenance rear garden, upstairs bathroom with shower, 3 good size bedrooms, gas central heating, land to front of property for use by tenant. Also the property benefits from a cellar that is heated and plenty of space for storage. A lovely family home! EPC: TBC



BARTLEY GREEN, Hunnington Close£650 pcm+Fees
Modern 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops and transport. Large lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, private rear mature garden, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, white bathroom with 'P' bath and shower. Garage en bloc. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Wesley Close£595 pcm+Fees
Unfurnished mid news modern house undergoing a MAJOR REFURBISHMENT. This lovely family home comprises of: gas central heating, lounge/dining room, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom with shower, rear garden, close to local school and train station. Available September. EPC: C



STOURBRIDGE, Wheeler Street£595 pcm+Fees
A traditional 3 bedroom mid terrace property in the highly sought after Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Featuring a front reception room with original marble fireplace, rear reception room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 large bedrooms and 1 large single. Lovely rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. On road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Pumphouse£595 pcm+Fees
Contemporary fully furnished luxury living. Generous size lounge with state of the art SKY HD/TV/DAB chrome sockets. 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, wall mounted LCD/DVD, stunning fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, beautiful bathroom with shower, electric central heating, allocated parking space with visitor spaces, secure ported access phone system. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£575 pcm+Fees
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terrace house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, 3 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees
An extremely well maintained 2 bedroom semi detached property situated towards the head of a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, recently installed double glazing, driveway, gas central heating and easy to maintain rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D



DUDLEY, Highfield Court £525 pcm+Fees
A modern ground floor apartment which is double glazed windows and central heating. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, fully fitted kitchen with integrated fridge freezer, 1 double and 1 single bedroom and allocated parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£525 pcm+Fees
Located on this very popular Timberfree Estate and ideally situated for The Timberfree Primary School and transport links. Having recently had a brand new kitchen/diner in the last 6 months and also features 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, front reception room, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden and on road parking. EPC: D



BRIERLEY HILL, Orchard Street£495 pcm+Fees
Unfurnished modern end terrace house which has been newly painted and carpeted. Ideally situated for Merry Hill, Brierley Hill and buses to Dudley. This house features gas central heating, living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£495 pcm+Fees
A lovely unfurnished 2nd floor flat, close to local shops and transport links, briefly comprising of: spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating and allocated parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+Fees
●FULLY REFURBISHED● A beautifully presented ground floor apartment having under gone a full refurbishment in the last 12 months. Ideally located for Blackheath Town Centre, Rowley Regis Train Station and the M5 J2. Featuring a large spacious lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a shower. The apartment also has the added bonus of a garage and gardens to front and rear, double glazing and gas central heated. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Sidaway Street£475 pcm+Fees
A well presented mid terrace property within walking distance to Old Hill. This home offers 2 reception rooms, modernised kitchen with appliances and utility area, downstairs shower room, 2 double bedrooms with 3rd room off master ideal for a dressing room or study, low maintenance garden, double glazing and electric heating. EPC: F



CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court£460 pcm+Fees
Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely 1st floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£425 pcm+Fees
Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road£425 pcm+Fees
Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Teme Road £395 pcm+Fees
A very well presented and close to Colley Lane Primary School, is this furnished to suit ground floor apartment. Briefly comprising of 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, family bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £395 pcm+Fees
Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen is this unfurnished 2nd floor flat, comprising of: Living room/fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage, and residents parking. Available now. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Road£395 pcm+Fees
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house, kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities, wi-fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. Available now. EPC: E

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JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

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MID naughty forties female looking for fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

Men seeking women

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox No: 4265299

FEEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more status important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history, seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

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ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623

Men seeking women

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COLIN 48, seeks large cuddly lady 47-56 for LTR/Romance. Single Mums welcome. Text only to Mailbox No: 4730876

JOHN 26, GSOH, likes the outdoors, wine and good food, medium athletic build, WLTm older woman for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4488256

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VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157

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10 Personals

personal

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Ticking all boxes for a city car

By Bill McCarthy

RENAULT says the latest version of its city car evolved 'from a clean sheet of paper.'

The French firm adds that this 'takes into account all the joys and stresses of living and driving in the cities it was primarily designed for.'

Cut through the advertising jargon and you can see what the company is getting at, with the new model seeming to tick all the boxes required of a city car runabout.

As for the clean sheet of paper, it is certainly different, having its engine in the rear, driving the rear wheels. This in turn means that the front wheel, unencumbered with drive shafts are capable of turning to 45 degrees, giving a turning circle like a black cab.

That is clearly a huge advantage with tight city parking spaces and sliding into gaps.

Like many cars in this segment, it has funky design, both inside and out, which can be further customised to suit owner requirements, has clean efficient engines and is fun to drive. Another innovation is the French firm's R & GO smartphone connectivity system, which, thanks to the radio, a universal cradle and a free-to-download app, owners have access to a variety of navigation, telephone, multimedia and trip computer functions as well as internet radio and a host of other practical features.

There are four trim levels, Expression, Play, Dynamique and Dynamique S and two versions of the three cylinder one-litre petrol engine delivering different power outputs.

Nearly 70mpg is claimed on the 70bhp model with the 90bhp version tested here offering a bit more grunt, with a respectable 0-60mph acceleration time of 10.8 seconds.

Pretty decent performance while delivering a claimed, but optimistic, 65-odd mpg with stop/start technology. Carbon emissions are also under the magic 100g/km.

It does look eye-catching with the now familiar large Renault diamond logo dominating the narrow grille.

The boxy style is well-disguised by smart body kit, body coloured bumpers, concealed rear door handles, neat new headlights with round daytime running lights and striking alloy wheels on this tested model.

Inside, what appears to be a spartan interior is cleverly jazzed up with funky paintwork and dark plastic to dash and doors, steering wheel and gear shift and various surrounds. Hardly sumptuous, but certainly practical.

The dash itself is minimalist with one large central dial. Other controls and switches are handily placed.

In practical terms there are numerous cabin storage areas, three cupholders and a boot light.

Space

To overcome fears over losing boot space with a rear-mounted power unit, Renault has positioned the engine at an angle of 49 degrees so that it does not intrude into the boot, and in a rear-end collision it is pushed beneath the passenger cell.

Boot space is always going to be meagre on this type of car and the Twingo capacity is 188 litres. This can be increased to 219 litres setting the rear seat-backs in a 'cargo' position at 90 degrees, while still safely carrying two passengers in the back.

With the standard on all models 50/50 split-folding rear seats lowered, the boot volume is increased to 980 litres.

Standard kit is good with the Expression featuring, electric power steering, electric front windows, remote central locking, a speed limiter, a height-adjustable steering wheel, a trip computer and gearchange indicator, a lane-change function for the indicators and automatic activation of the rear screen wiper when reverse gear is selected.

The Play version adds a height-adjustable driver's seat and steering wheel and 15-inch black two-tone wheel trims.

Dynamique adds 15-inch alloy wheels, pinstripe shoulder-line decals, front foglamps, electric heated door mirrors, cruise control, a lane departure warning system, a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshift knob, white instrument backlighting, while Dynamique S TCe 90 adds the previously optional Sport Pack. This features an aluminium pedal set, red/black part leather upholstery and the red interior touch pack.

The safety equipment includes stability control, hill start, emergency braking, tyre pressure monitors and four airbags.

TESTED

Renault Twingo Dynamique ENERGY TCe 90 Stop & Start

Price: £11,695

Mechanical: 90bhp, 898cc, 3cyl petrol engine driving rear wheels via 5-speed manual gearbox
Max speed: 103mph

0-62mph: 10.8 seconds

Combined mpg: 65.7

Insurance: 8

CO2 emissions: 99g/km

BIK rating: 12%

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07	Note 1.6 SE Caffè Latte	37k	£3,995
63	Navara 2.5 DCI Tekna Auto Silver	29k Plus VAT	£15,995

Peugeot

06	107 1.0 Urban 3dr Blue	43k	£2,995
61	3008 1.6 HDI Active EGC Black	16k	£8,995
12	3008 1.6 E-HDI Allure EGC Grey	14k	£10,995

Vauxhall

57	Corsa 1.2 Breeze 3dr Silver	55k	£3,495
12	Corsa 1.4 SE Auto Silver	18k	£7,495
12	Corsa 1.2 SE Black	18k	£6,995
12	Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Brown	20k	£6,995
10	Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv Grey	30k	£5,795
12	Meriva 1.7 CDTI SE Auto Grey	26k	£8,695

Other

07	Daihatsu Terios 1.5 S Grey	47k	£4,295
58	Mercedes C 200 1.8 Elegance Silver	56k	£7,995
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Princesses transported in economical comfort to a magical land

By Matt Joy

In month two of driving the Lexus NX300h, Matt Joy puts it through its paces with a cross-channel trip to Disneyland Paris.

We live in a world dominated by speed. How fast your broadband is, how quickly your food arrives at your table and perhaps worst of all; how fast your car is. Even as someone who should technically be a responsible adult, I still get caught up in the big rush.

The Lexus NX300h is, by conventional measures, quick enough for modern driving with a top speed of 112mph and 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds, but in the last month, I've discovered one of its best qualities is how it makes me drive with calm restraint.

This is in part due to the cabin. You climb slightly up into the driver's seat, instantly giving you that commanding driving position which is why you would buy one in the first place. But the NX goes a step further, with a dashboard stacked so it sits up high with you, as well as a clever nod to the exterior in its shape.

Energy

Even the displays give you a gentle nudge in the right direction, if you wish. With the car in Sport mode there's a conventional rev counter illuminated in suitably racy red, but in Normal or Eco mode it instead indicates how efficiently you're driving. You can also bring up the energy flow meter between the dials or on the large screen, showing when the NX is running on petrol, electric or a combination. Competitive moron that I am, keeping it in EV mode for as long as possible becomes a game whilst remaining a good way of keeping emissions and consumption low.

Good consumption was on the priority list, however, for a family trek to Disneyland Paris. Normally I'd advocate a flight, but the NX had the right amount of room on board for two princesses (and me) and all the luggage that comes with that. There's also an argument that eight hours on motorways and autoroutes is still less stressful than 30 seconds in a UK airport in June.

And so it proved. Two four hour stints behind the wheel, even starting at 4.15am, were as easy as they could be on the driver thanks to the comfort on offer.

Better still, the radar-guided cruise control fitted to this luxury-spec model proved its worth yet again. Sure, you need to adapt your driving style slightly to keep things smooth, but do so and you're expending less effort than if you were taking full control yourself, and that pays off with less fatigue.

The excellent stereo system kept us entertained too, although I have yet to work out how to cancel the navigation announcements altogether; turning them down is fine, but the audio still pauses for an announcement that isn't there. My money is still on operator error, but if you will let Mickey Mouse behind the wheel...

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Bit of hot stuff from Kia

By James Parker

Two sporty Chilli models have been added to the Kia Picanto range, which now features EU6-compliant engines. The Chilli variants are part of the Picanto Originals series, a rolling programme of high-specification, value-priced models changed at frequent intervals to offer buyers something out of the ordinary.

Both of the new Chilli models are three-door cars powered by a 1.2-litre four-cylinder petrol engine developing 84bhp and 120Nm (89lb ft) of torque.

They offer buyers the option of a five-speed manual gearbox or a four-speed automatic which will be particularly attractive to those who do most of their driving in congested towns and cities.



In line with all Picanto Originals, the Chilli models offer a high specification for a mid-range price, sitting above the SR7 grade in the line-up.

The manual costs £11,495 on the road, while the automatic is £12,095, both are on sale from July 1, 2015. They sit above the SR7 models in the Picanto line-up.

As the name implies, the Chilli variants are particularly sporty and spicy in appearance while retaining a proven powertrain that brings inexpensive, no-nonsense running costs.

Stylish

The already sharp looks of the three-door Picanto have been enhanced by stylish new front and rear bumpers and a twin exhaust tailpipe.

There are also additional side sill mouldings painted to match the body colour. The Chilli models are finished in red, black or white paintwork.

Sporty-looking five-barrel 15-inch alloy wheels shod with 175/50 tyres are the final finishing touch.

This is complemented by the equally sporty interior. The seats are in black faux leather with striking red and grey cloth cushions and backrests to match the inserts on the doors.

There are aluminium pedals with non-slip rubber pads, while the centre fascia, steering wheel bezel and gearshifter top are finished in classy Gloss Black.

The Chilli versions are the first Picantos to be fitted with satellite navigation including European mapping, similar to the system found in Kia's Rio and Venga ranges. This is linked to a seven-inch touchscreen and includes a reversing camera.



.....
'As the name implies, the Chilli variants are particularly sporty and spicy in appearance, while retaining a proven powertrain.'
.....

A six-speaker audio system is also standard.

The Picanto now features EU6-compliant powertrains in eight models, with the remainder due to be converted a little later in the year. The 1.0-litre, three-cylinder Picanto 1, SR7 and 2 variants – three- and five-door – now meet the latest emissions standard, as do the two 1.2-litre, four-cylinder Chilli models. The 1.0-litre Kappa EU6 engine develops 65bhp and 95Nm (70lb ft) of torque and has fuel economy of 62.8mpg with CO2 emissions of 105g/km.

It is available only as a five-speed manual. The 1.2, also from the Kappa family, develops 84bhp and 120Nm (89lb ft) and has economy and emissions figures of 61.4mpg and 106g/km with the five-speed manual gearbox, or 50.4mpg and 130g/km with the four-speed automatic.

As with every Kia, the Picanto range comes with a unique-in-the-UK seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty, subject to certain wear and tear conditions. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached.

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Halesowen side is in good shape, says captain

HALESOWEN skipper Rich Brooker says his side are in good shape for two successive home matches after their fine win at Penkridge.

The team are back at Seth Somers Park this Saturday when they face Old Elizabethans with a midday start – and they will be confident after a much needed success.

Said Brooker: “We will take a lot of positives out of this match and some momentum into the successive home matches in the next fortnight.

“Batting first we endured a couple of collapses to set Penkridge a challenging total. Wes (Griffiths) is in spectacular form at the moment and we looked solid at the top of the order.

“Our wickets tend to fall in clutches though and that’s something we must try to address.

“Jerryck was happy to play second fiddle in his partnership with Wes and he looked very good for his 65. I still don’t think we’ve seen the best of him yet, though.

“In the field our openers bowled with pace and hostility and we held our catches. It makes life so much easier when you get the basics right.”

Brooker made two changes as 2nd XI keeper Joe Tromans was drafted in after last weeks centurion Wes Griffiths sustained a fractured finger.

But in-form Griffiths, however battled through the pain barrier as a specialist batsman and very nearly made it back to back hundreds as

Halesowen romped to victory by 180 runs.

George get easy win in Oak derby

Premier Division 1
The George 243 Royal Oak 198

THE George eased to a 45-shot home win against local rivals Royal Oak.

The George held a three-shot advantage thanks to wins by Alan Belcher (21-11) and Paddy McGuinness (21-20).

Wins in the middle four by Paul Hemming (21-13), Mick McGuinness (21-17) and Marc Wilson (21-18) stretched the lead to 17 shots. The back four of Mark Street (21-9), Eric Winstone (21-14), Pete Davenport (21-15) and Jamie Dunn (21-18) completed what turned out to be a comfortable victory.

South Staffs Division 1: ECC 238 The George 168 (Dave Hoffman 21-14)

Warwick & Worcester Alliance 1: Selly Park 196 The George 227.

Gabriella hoping for games success



Gabriella Homer

A young Halesowen cyclist is aiming for success in a national school games competition.

Gabriella Homer be riding in the upcoming Sainsbury's 2015 School Games (3-6 September) in Manchester, where she will compete in the multi-sport event for school-age athletes.

One of the 1,600 taking part in this year's Games, 14-year-old Gabriella from Hagley Catholic High School will represent England West Midlands in cycling.

In total, 12 sports, seven of which include disability disciplines, will be contested at the four-day spectacular which is supported by National Lottery funding from Sport England and delivered by the Youth Sport Trust.

Gabriella will be following in the footsteps of some of Britain's biggest sporting stars including Paralympic champions Hannah Cockcroft, Ellie Simmonds and Jonnie Peacock, world-record breaking swimmer Adam Peaty, heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson, World Junior Champion heptathlete and high jumper Morgan Lake and sprinter Adam Gemili, who all competed at the School Games before going on to elite success with Team GB and ParalympicsGB.

At the event, Gabriella will experience the excitement of competing at the highest level. She will live within the Athletes' Village, attend show-stopping opening and closing ceremonies and perform in front of a crowd of thousands.

Gabriella said: "I am really pleased to be selected for the Sainsbury's School Games as the selection process was tough. It is a very prestigious event and it was one of my main goals to represent the West Midlands in Manchester this year."

One shot's enough for Dicko to do it

Burton 0 Wolves 1
AS THINGS became decidedly unsettled off the field, the opposite was true for Wolves on it.

A regulation 1-0 victory, another clean sheet, some encouraging displays and 90 minutes under the belt for five players made this a successful day out for Kenny Jackett's team.

But with Wolves' squad still looking thin – even before James Henry's likely exit to Charlton – and Kevin McDonald's increasingly-ugly contract saga showing no signs of a conclusion, all is not rosy for Jackett.

McDonald's absence from the team, despite being named in the original squad for Wolves' first friendly on English soil this season, raised eyebrows before kick-off. And after the game Jackett confirmed McDonald was 'unsettled' and so had been left out.

It led Jackett to field the soon-to-be-loaned Lee Evans in a team he pledged would be his strongest possible, with Tommy Rowe and Michael Jacobs again given opportunities to stake claims for wide berths.

Most surprising of all in the team selection was Benik Afobe's starting position – essentially an advanced midfielder.

Diamond

After experimenting with a diamond formation in France, Jackett went 4-4-1-1 this time, but Afobe could pop up wherever he pleased.

His performance was the highlight of the afternoon. He was at the heart of Wolves' most attractive interplay, picked up the ball from deep and ran at Burton's defenders, and even sauntered back to defensive midfield to spray the ball around with comfortable assuredness.

Afobe also created the game's only goal, jumping on a defensive error before feeding Nouha Dicko, who coolly beat Burton keeper Jon McLaughlin.

A number of second-half substitutions led to Wolves looking 'disjointed', to use Jackett's post-match assessment, and this was where Wolves' squad depth was shown up. Elsewhere Tommy Rowe looked tidy on the left, Conor Coady was full of energy and bite in midfield and Richard Stearman and Kortney Hause formed a solid centre-back partnership.

Ellie brings home the bronze



Ellie-May proctor, with her Wall Heath instructor Haydn Bennett, fought for GB at the karate world cup

A 10-year-old Halesowen girl has done her nation proud in an international karate championships.

Ellie-May Proctor who attends Colley Lane Primary School brought back a bronze medal for Kumite fighting in the GKR Karate World Cup

The youngster competed alongside more than 1,500 martial artists from the USA, Australia and Great Britain in the contest held at Liverpool's Echo Arena.

Her mother, Lisa Proctor, said Ellie-May is dedicated to the sport, although she only started three years ago.

"It was going to be the toughest competition yet for her as competitors could only compete at the World Cup if they had won a medal at tournaments the previous year – therefore all competitors were already the best of the best.

"Karate has changed her life. I am so proud of her.

"Before she started she was painfully shy and wouldn't even talk to teachers at school, yet since starting karate she's doing amazing at school – it has really brought her out of her shell.

"She trains five times a week but I think she would do it every day if she could."

Ellie-May trains with GKR Karate Club, Brierley Hill.

Colwyn Bay will be first to test the Yeltz

THE Yeltz welcome Colwyn Bay for their first game of the season on August 15 . The full fixtures are:

August

15 Colwyn Bay H; 18 Mickleover Sports A; 22 Skelmersdale United A; 25 Stamford AFC H; 29 Workington AFC H; 31 Sutton Coldfield Town A

September

5 Darlington 1883 H; 8 Matlock Town A; 19 Frickley Athletic A; 22 Marine H; 29 Salford City A

October

3 Whitby Town H; 6 Nantwich Town H; 10 Buxton A; 13 Barwell A; 17 Ashton United H; 20 Stamford AFC A; 24 Skelmersdale United H; 27 Mickleover Sports H

November

7 Colwyn Bay A; 21 Ramsbottom United H; 28 Rushall Olympic A

December

5 Hyde United H; 12 Grantham Town A; 19 Frickley Athletic H; 26 Stourbridge A; 28 Sutton Coldfield Town H

January

2 Marine A; 9 Blyth Spartans H; 16 Ilkeston A; 23 Workington AFC A; 26 Matlock Town H; 30 Whitby Town A

February

6 Salford City H; 13 Nantwich Town A; 20 Buxton H; 23 Barwell ; 27Ashton United A

March

5 Ilkeston H; 12 Blyth Spartans A; 26 Darlington 1883 A; 28 Stourbridge H

April

2 Rushall Olympic H; 9 Ramsbottom United A; 16 Grantham Town H; 23 Hyde United A

Harriers hold their ground against Blues

Harriers1 Blues1

ASSISTANT boss Mark Creighton was impressed by the way Kidderminster Harriers stepped up their preparations for the new season with a well-deserved draw against Birmingham City at Aggborough.

Blues used the friendly to field a different side in each half, but were still unable to tame Harriers, who produced an encouraging display in their build up to their National League campaign which opens with a tough home clash against Grimsby Town on August 8.

"I think we frustrated two really good Birmingham sides," said Creighton, whose team went ahead on 68 minutes through trialist Adam Dawson.

Gary Rowett's Blues equalised seven minutes from time when Shane Lowry powered home.



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Villa linked with move for Austin

VILLA have been linked with a move for Charlie Austin – though it is Newcastle United who currently head the race for the £15million-rated QPR striker.

The 26-year-old, who scored 18 goals last season, is being chased by a host of Premier League suitors with Villa – whose coffers are about to be boosted by the £32.5million sale of Christian Benteke to Liverpool – reportedly the latest to express an interest.

But it is Newcastle, who completed the £13million signing of Aleksander Mitrovic from Anderlecht yesterday, who remain favourites.

Austin has been linked with an exit from Loftus Road all summer but to this point only Leicester have submitted a formal offer of £7m, which was rejected, with several clubs put off by the transfer fee.

Boss Tim Sherwood has meanwhile removed one summer-long question mark by confirming Brad Guzan will begin the season as Villa's No.1.

The 30-year-old keeper had been linked with a move away from Villa Park after losing his place to Shay Given late last season.

Given, who was on £50,000 per week, has since moved to Stoke City to free up funds. Sherwood said: "Brad was always going to be the No.1."

"It's a long season. "Shay had an opportunity to go elsewhere and Guzan's got age on his side over Shay who can't go on forever."

"He had the opportunity to get a two-year deal and it gave us the opportunity to release a little bit of money for us to use in other areas."

Jed Steer will be No.2, with new recruit from Norwich Mark Bunn stepping in if the former departs on loan. "Jed knows if he's playing well, he will get the chance to play," said Sherwood.

Jailed Yeung now facing more legal action over 'claims'

JAILED former Blues owner Carson Yeung is facing further legal action over allegations he and other officials wrongfully claimed more than £6.3million in expenses during his reign at St Andrews.

The receivers in charge of the club's parent company, Birmingham International Holdings, yesterday issued a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange confirming they had launched action against Yeung, together with former Blues director Peter Pannu and two companies, Asia Rays Ltd and Amazing Top International Enterprises Ltd.

They are claiming for HK\$3.7m (£305,000) from Asia Rays and/or Yeung for payments made under the agreements, as well as HK\$6.1m (£503,650) from Yeung for payments made as remuneration to Peter Pannu under the BIHL Service Agreement.

By far the largest claim is for HK\$76.4m (£6.3m) for expenses being wrongfully claimed.

Yeung resigned from Blues in February last year, one month before being jailed for six years in Hong Kong after being found guilty of money laundering.

Whiley wins Super Series singles title

BRITAIN'S Jordanne Whiley won her first Super Series singles title when she beat Aniek van Koot of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the women's final at the British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships at Nottingham Tennis Centre.

The day after beating van Koot's countrywoman and world No.1 Jiske Griffioen for just the second time in her career, 23-year-old world No. 6 Whiley bounced back from dropping the opening set against world No.3 van Koot to claim her first singles title at one of the sport's six most important tournaments outside of the Grand Slams.

"It hasn't sunk in yet. I'm used to just being a quarter or semi-finalist at Super Series events

Tennis

like this and now I'm here on finals day and I've just won the tournament," Whiley said.

"Today I hope I proved to myself and other players that I'm a contender for the singles and leading up to Rio next year a contender for gold as well. For so long I've been wanting to prove myself in singles but it hasn't quite worked out," added Whiley, a six-time Grand Slam doubles champion who won her second Wimbledon title last weekend partnering Japan's Yui Kamiji.

"I've gained a lot of confidence from this tour-

namment but I've also learnt a lot about myself and my game to take into the US open. I really pushed myself. I'm not in the best form, I've said that all week, and I think that is what makes it a little more special, because when I am on form imagine what I can do. I'm so grateful to all my team and for the Tennis Foundation support and National Lottery funding from UK Sport funding that helps me to prepare and achieve results such as this."

Also on the penultimate day of play Andy Laphorne finished runner-up in the quad singles final as South Africa's Lucas Sithole won his second British Open title in three years.

ALBION EYE UP £10m RAMOS

ALBION are considering a move for Borussia Dortmund's £10million-rated striker Adrian Ramos.

The 29-year-old Colombian international is among several players being monitored by boss Tony Pulis as he increases efforts to strengthen the Baggies forward line before the start of the season.

Ramos struggled to live up to his billing as Robert Lewandowski's replacement after signing for Dortmund from Hertha Berlin last summer, netting only two league goals in a campaign racked by injury.

But the striker, who is nearing recovery from a knee problem which forced him to miss this summer's Copa America, has an otherwise impressive track record having scored 68 goals in 157 appearances during a five year stay in Berlin.

Talks with the agent of Liverpool striker Rickie Lambert are meanwhile expected to begin in the next 24 hours, though Albion will face competition from newly-promoted Norwich for the 33-year-old's signature.

Hopeful

The Baggies remain hopeful of finally breaking the stalemate in discussion with QPR over Matt Phillips now Pulis is back in the country.

Captain Darren Fletcher admits Albion's players, like the head coach, are desperate to see new recruits soon.

"You feel leggy at different parts of pre-season but it's all gone well," he said. "Nobody has picked up injuries and we have only got small numbers."

"I know the manager is desperate to get players in and we're going to need those players because we're relatively short of numbers," said the skipper.

"The biggest thing on the pre-season trips was not picking up injuries because we need everybody for the start of the season and we're desperate for a few numbers to come in. I know the manager is so hopefully we can make that happen."

1 Tickets for Albion's opening away game at Watford on August 15 have been set at £20.

Pulis is a man on a mission



Fans' favourite Claudio Jacob gets to work during the pre-season friendly in America

TONY PULIS touched down in England having seen his side end their pre-season tour of America with a final win against Richmond Kickers.

The Albion boss boarded the flight home from Washington DC with transfers on his mind.

So far, the Welshman has remained patient through a summer of dead ends and frustration in the market.

But now, as he enters the final phase of pre-season, Pulis will be anxious to strengthen his squad significantly Albion play their first game of the new season on August 10 against Man City.

"We're trying to get things moving," said Pulis after seeing his side triumph 2-1 at the Richmond City Stadium in a game delayed bizarrely for around an hour by distant lightning. "We've got targets that we are trying to bring into the club but we've not been able to get any in at the moment, which is a bit frustrating. The closer we get to the season starting, things usually start to move."

Talks with the agent of Liverpool striker Rickie Lambert will begin this week while Pulis remains keen on QPR duo Matt Phillips and Charlie Austin, although negotiations with the Loftus Road hierarchy over fees have proven difficult.

Brummies comeback sees big win

BIRMINGHAM pulled off one of their biggest results of the season winning 47-42 at Coventry.

The Surestop Brummies pulled off another remarkable second half comeback after being six-points down with nine races gone.

The win ensured three more league points for the Perry Barr outfit who are now 17 clear at the top after winning all eleven of their league matches so far.

Team Manager Graham Drury said: "What another incredible turnaround and what another spectacular performance from our riders."

"Both sides had their bits of good fortune as well as bad luck - but this is speedway and that's the way it goes. We've shown remarkable character and determination once again and this is a massive step towards our end of season goal - but there's still a long way to go."

"Our supporters were brilliant and they completely out voiced the Coventry fans - what another great night for Birmingham speedway."

The Brummies were inspired by No.1 Adam Ellis who raced his way to a 15-point maximum; despite having to start one heat 15 metres back after touching the tapes.

Zach Wajtknecht was superb once again scoring paid 15 and re-claiming the National League Bronze Helmet from Dan Greenwood.

Sam Chapman rounded off his night with two crucial heat wins.

COVENTRY 42: Martin Knuckey 10+1, Dan Greenwood 9+1, Darryl Ritchings 9, Rob Shuttleworth 6+3, Jamie Halder 5, Conor Dwyer 3, Luke Crang R/R.

BIRMINGHAM 47: Adam Ellis 15, Zach Wajtknecht 14+1, Sam Chapman 10+1, Adam Kirby 5+1, Ben Basford 2, Alex Wilson 1, Josh Bates R/R.

Magazine names Kenny as top dog

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has been named the best manager in the Football League by Four Four Two magazine.

The publication looked into the achievements of all managers plying their trade across the Championship, League One and League Two with Jackett coming out on top.

The 53-year-old was declared the winner thanks to his promotion achievements with former clubs Swansea and Millwall.

The magazine voted Birmingham's Gary Rowett as the second best boss outside the Premier League following his success with the Blues.

★★★

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